

**CONFIDENTIAL**

(5504.)

**PART XV.**

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**F.O.  
403**

**FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

**RESPECTING THE**

**AFFAIRS OF NORTH AFRICA.**

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**July to December 1887.**

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CONFIDENTIAL.

## Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of North Africa.

PART XV.

## No. 1.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 58.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 24, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I arrived here on my return from my visit to the Moorish Court the day before yesterday.

At the request of the Sultan, I remained in the city of Morocco for ten days after His Sherceffan Majesty's departure on his march northwards, in order to endeavour to bring to a satisfactory termination with Oude Emfadel Gharneet and Hadj Mohamed Torres, by discussion and negotiation, a number of long-pending claims of British subjects.

I cannot say that the results of this detention were very great, but my willingness to discuss anew matters which mostly had been over and over again clearly represented by my predecessor marked my desire not to inconsiderately set aside the dilatory business ways of the Moorish Government.

I hope in a few days to be able to furnish your Lordship with a statement concerning my discussions with the Moorish Ministers, in order to obtain your Lordship's instructions on such British claims as I have failed to secure a settlement of, and also your Lordship's directions on other matters affecting in a general way British interests in this country.

When I started from Morocco on my return journey I did not adopt the most direct route to Tangier. I felt I was justified in doing this for many reasons, and especially as, owing to the liberality of the Sultan, the actual travelling and subsistence expenses of the Mission were not a charge on Her Majesty's Government.

I trust your Lordship will approve of my having thus shown even to the Moorish Government that districts hitherto considered inaccessible may be visited with safety by foreigners, and that traditions as to the routes to be followed in Morocco ought to be set aside just as well as all other obstructions to free intercourse with Europeans.

Mr. White and Mr. Boulnois, the Royal Artillery officer who was a member of my Mission, took careful notes of the route followed, so that I trust I shall be later in a position to furnish your Lordship with a Sketch Map, which cannot fail to be of some geographical value.

The coast was struck at Mogador, and from there I visited each port in the course of the Mission's progress northwards. This enabled me to become personally acquainted with the Consular officers, as well as with the important British mercantile communities settled at each of the ports.

The knowledge gained by me in the course of a journey which it took forty-two days' riding to accomplish of the country, its varied features, many races, natural resources, and commercial and agricultural capabilities, will, I cannot but feel, be of the utmost use to me in my future intercourse with this Government and people, and will doubtless give, in your Lordship's eyes, additional weight to the opinions I may venture to express regarding them.

If not out of place, I trust your Lordship will allow me to here express to you my most grateful thanks for having permitted me to be accompanied by Mr. Herbert White.

His past experience of the manner in which Missions have travelled to and been received by the Moorish Court was invaluable to me. I feel also most grateful to Mr. Horace White for having facilitated the coming of his son with me by consenting to take charge of the affairs of this Legation during our absence. M. de Vismes de Ponthieu proved himself a most capable translator, having very successfully mastered the Moorish idiom of Arabic since his short residence in this country. His efficiency was the more satisfactory as the native interpreter of the Legation, M. Haim Sicsu, was, through severe chronic illness, entirely incapacitated from giving M. de Vismes de Ponthieu the slightest assistance.

To Surgeon-Major Charlesworth's watchful care I attribute much of the immunity from sickness of the whole Mission. Mr. Boulnois was most successful in demonstrating to the Sultan the use of the limelights which I presented to His Majesty, as well as in obtaining the topographical data already alluded to. May I ask your Lordship, if admissible, to make known in the proper military quarter my grateful sense of the value of the services rendered to the Mission by these two officers?

Though my Private Secretary, Mr. John Kirby Green, is my son, still I feel it would be unjust to him if I did not include his name in this despatch as having also made himself most useful to me.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 2.

Sir R. L. Playfair to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 5.)

(No. 11.)  
My Lord,

THE inclosed letter, dated the 20th June, from Consul Sandwith, was brought to me a few days ago by M. Camilleri, the new "Avocat" of Ben Ayad, of Tunis, who, after several interviews, begged me to forward his letter to your Lordship.

I see very little hope of saving Ben Ayad from the ruin which menaces him. His only chance is to accept the original "Transaction" proposed by M. Massicault without reservation. I have telegraphed to Mr. Sandwith strongly urging him to do so, if not too late. The terms, though hard, are the best he is likely to obtain: I cannot take upon myself the responsibility of suggesting that your Lordship should direct any further diplomatic action to be employed. I feel that it would be of no avail.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) R. L. PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to Sir R. L. Playfair.

Sir,

Tunis, June 20, 1887.

IN my despatch of the 19th February I had the honour to inform you of the failure of the negotiations entered into between the Resident-General, representing the Tunisian Government, and Maître Aicard, representing General Benayad. The hearing of the appeal made by the latter against the arbitration, condemning him to pay 1,181,426 piastres, being fixed for the 4th proximo, the General yesterday made a last effort to come to an arrangement on the spot, and thus to stop further legal proceedings. He accordingly presented me a "Projet de Transaction," copy of which I have the honour to inclose, which he desired me to communicate to the Minister Resident. You will perceive that General Ben Ayad concedes all the essential points contained in the Project of Transaction drawn up by the Director of the Tunisian finances last January. M. Massicault, after reading the paper attentively, remarked that it would, in his opinion, have been an acceptable arrangement had it been presented earlier. He explained that only a short time previously the question of effecting a compromise with General Ben Ayad had been discussed before the Council of Ministers, at which he was present. On that occasion M. Depienne, the Director of the Finances, who throughout has exercised a paramount influence on this question, gave the advice that it was for the interest of the Tunisian Treasury that no compromise should now be entertained, as he had the conviction that the approaching suit at Algiers would result in a Judgment in favour of the Tunisian Government. The Council indorsed this opinion, and conse-

quently M. Massicault, who was evidently disposed to accept the Project of Arrangement, which I had submitted for his consideration, did not feel himself authorized to depart from the Resolution arrived at by the Council of Ministers.

Dr. Camilleri, the bearer of this despatch, has been engaged as General Ben Ayad's lawyer to proceed to Algiers, and he will furnish you with such further information as the interest of his client may seem to require.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Projet de Transaction basé sur les Propositions faites par le Gouvernement Tunisien, comme il résulte de la Lettre de Sir Julian Pauncefote, Sous-Secrétaire du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, datée le 16 Mai, 1887.

LE Général Hamida Ben Ayad accepte la Sentence Arbitrale rendue le 5 Mai, 1884, par M. de Blignières et Sir A. Dingli; en conséquence, il se désiste de toutes sortes de procédures introduites devant le Tribunal de Tunis et la Cour d'Alger contre ce Jugement et son exécution.

2. Le Gouvernement Tunisien en considération du dit désistement réduit pour solde à la somme de 300,000 piastres, payable en dix ans. Dans cette réduction se trouve comprise la somme de 86,000 piastres sollicitée par les arbitres postérieurement à la rédaction de la Sentence.

3. Le Général Ben Ayad renonce à tous droits qu'il pourrait exercer contre le Gouvernement Tunisien tant concernant actions mobilières ou immobilières que les actions d'indemnité de n'importe quelle nature; et dans le cas où le Général Ben Ayad viendrait à exercer contre des tiers, actions pour des droits acquis de son chef, les actions de cette nature et où le Gouvernement Tunisien serait appelé en cause, le Général Ben Ayad s'engage à intervenir au procès et garantir le Gouvernement en principal, intérêts, et frais des condamnations qui seraient prononcées contre lui.

4. Le Gouvernement Tunisien de sa part renonce en faveur du Général Ben Ayad à toutes les actions énumérées à l'Article précédent (Article 3).

5. Le Général Ben Ayad cède au Gouvernement Tunisien la propriété de deux boutiques situées Avenue de la Marine, au coin de la Rue d'Italie, ainsi que celle du "fondouk" situé Avenue de Bab Djédid, en face de sa maison d'habitation, actuellement occupée par un poste de police.

6. Le Général Ben Ayad s'engage à fournir au Gouvernement Tunisien toutes les garanties qu'il demandera pour le paiement de la dite somme de 300,000 piastres.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Dr. Camilleri to Sir R. L. Playfair.

M. le Consul-Général,

Alger, le 25 Juin, 1887.

LE Général Hamida Ben Ayad m'a chargé de vous présenter des explications sur certains faits ayant connexité avec les pourparlers de transaction concernant ses affaires avec le Gouvernement Tunisien.

De la lettre de Sir Julian Pauncefote, Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique, adressée à Messrs. Tweedie, de Londres, en date du 16 Mai dernier, il résulte qu'il existe des malentendus en ce qui concerne les négociations concernant la susdite transaction.

Par la dite lettre le Gouvernement affirme que le Général Ben Ayad ait refusé de payer au Gouvernement Tunisien la somme de 300,000 piastres.

Je prends la liberté, M. le Consul-Général, de soumettre à votre sagesse que le Général Ben Ayad a non seulement accepté de payer la susdite somme, mais en plus a offert de renoncer en faveur du dit Gouvernement la propriété de deux immeubles situés à Tunis d'une valeur d'environ 200,000 piastres, et de renoncer à tous droits qu'il pourrait exercer contre le même Gouvernement tant pour des actions mobilières ou immobilières, que ceux d'indemnité de n'importe quelle nature.

Le Général Ben Ayad a accepté le Projet de Transaction formulé par M. Depienne, seulement il a fait objection à la clause 2 du § 1 du dit Projet, laquelle porte une renonce indirecte de la part du Général Ben Ayad des droits qu'il pourrait exercer sur

les biens appartenant à la succession de Mahmoud Ben Ayad, l'injustice de la même clause a été encore reconnue par M. Benoit, Premier Secrétaire d'Ambassade à Tunis, ce qui résulte de la lettre de M. Aicard du 12 Février, 1887.

Suivant mon humble opinion, la transaction devait être conclue entre le Général Ben Ayad et le Gouvernement Tunisien, et devait comprendre droits et actions concernant les Parties Contractantes, par conséquent, je trouve que M. Depienne a tort à insister d'insérer la dite clause, laquelle devait simplement protéger un tiers.

A la réception de la lettre susénoncée de Sir Julian Pauncefote le Général Ben Ayad s'est présenté à M. Massicault, auquel a déclaré d'accepter la transaction indiquée dans la susdite lettre, et pour se mettre dans la position d'offrir une preuve officielle de sa conduite au Gouvernement de la Reine, a adressé un Projet de Transaction à Mr. Sanuwith, C.B., Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Tunis, lui priant de le soumettre à M. Massicault. Ce projet a été présenté Dimanche dernier, et a été qualifié par M. le Résident comme très libéral et que lui personnellement serait très disposé pour transiger cette affaire, mais que M. Depienne était contraire à toute sorte de transaction.

Je vous prie, M. le Consul, de vouloir bien soumettre les susdites explications accompagnées par une copie du nouveau Projet de Transaction qui vous a été adressé par M. le Consul de Tunis, au Gouvernement de la Reine, et solliciter du même Gouvernement son bienveillant appui diplomatique en faveur du Général Ben Ayad comme par le passé, sans lequel appui le Général Ben Ayad, chef d'une des plus respectables familles de la Tunisie, pourrai se considérer tout à fait ruiné et abandonné à peu près à la misère.

Venilles, &c.  
(Signed) DR. AY. M. CAMILLERI.

No. 3.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.*

(No. 339.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 6, 1887.*

COUNT METTERNICH called at this Office to-day, and, on behalf of the German Ambassador at this Court, stated that the latter had received a despatch from his Government, instructing him to thank me for my note to his Excellency of the 14th ultimo upon the subject of protection in Morocco, a copy of which accompanied my despatch to Sir E. Malet's No. 289 of the 18th ultimo, and to state that the German Government were quite willing to leave to Her Majesty's Government the next step to be taken with a view to remedying the abuses complained of.

Count Metternich added that the Governments of Austria, Italy, and Spain had been consulted, and had severally expressed concurrence in the view taken by the Governments of England and of Germany.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 4.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, July 9, 1887, 5-20 P.M.*

MY despatches Nos. 46 and 289 to Sir E. Malet.

What action have you taken?

Governments of Austria, Spain, and Italy have expressed to German Government concurrence in our views.

No. 5.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green*

(No. 56. Ext. 14.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 9, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 46 of the 18th May last, I transmit to you, for your information, the accompanying copy of a despatch which I have addressed to

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Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin upon the subject of protection in Morocco, from which you will see that the Governments of Austria, Italy, and Spain have been consulted, and have severally expressed concurrence in the view taken by the Governments of England and of Germany.

I have to request you to report to me what action you have taken in the matter.

The substance of the foregoing has this day been communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 6.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 55.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 9, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 58 of the 24th ultimo, reporting your arrival at Tangier on the 22nd ultimo from your visit to the Moorish Court, and I have to convey to you my approval of the route which you took on your return journey.

I shall not fail to make known in the proper quarter your sense of the services rendered to the Mission by Surgeon Charlesworth and Mr. Boulnois, R.A.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 7.

*Foreign Office to Sir R. L. Playfair.*

(No. 5.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 9, 1887.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 11 of the 28th ultimo, forwarding a despatch addressed to you by Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis in regard to the case of General Hamid Ben Aynd, as well as a letter from M. Camillieri, the General's new advocate, and I am to convey to you his Lordship's approval of your action.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 8.

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 9, 1887.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Stanhope, the accompanying extract of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,\* testifying to the valuable services rendered by Surgeon Charlesworth and Mr. Boulnois, R.A., in connection with his recent Mission to the Moorish Court.

It will be in Mr. Stanhope's recollection that sanction for the officers named to accompany Sir W. Kirby Green's Mission was given by your letter of the 30th March last.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

\* No. 1.

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## No. 9.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 11.)

(No. 13.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, July 11, 1887.

YOUR telegram No. 14 of the 9th instant.  
Have only been able to act up to your Lordship's instructions since my return to Tangier.  
Will send shortly a Report on views of my Spanish, German, and Italian colleagues, which are much in accord with mine.

## No. 10.

Sir W. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 13.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord,

Tangier, July 3, 1887

THE letter from the Acting Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs of which I have the honour to forward herein a translation calls upon me, under the Sultan's orders, to cause all young Moorish women who may be in the service of British subjects to be dismissed, on the ground that the presence of Mussulman girls in the families of foreigners is likely to cause offence to the Mohammedan religion.

I had intended settling this matter without troubling your Lordship about it, but, as I have found that some of my colleagues have taken quite a different view of it than I have, I feel that it is desirable I should be strengthened by your Lordship's directions in the course to be observed by me.

Signor Dioudado and Signor Scovasso, believing the Sultan's Decree to be aimed against the living of Moorish girls in concubinage with Europeans, and fearing that such a state of things, if tolerated, might lead to an outbreak of fanaticism from the side of the natives against the Christians, have caused instructions to be issued to the Spanish and Italian Consular officers to give effect to the Decree.

I, however, have not been able to arrive at the same conclusion as these gentlemen. I look upon the Sultan's Order as one of many attempts on the part of His Shereefian Majesty to prevent the increase of intercourse between Mussulmans and Christians. My recent journey through the country and my visit to all the ports have enabled me to ascertain that there is no fanatical feeling on the part of the Moorish people against the Christians. Such fanatical feeling appears to be confined to the Government officials, and to persons considering themselves within the circle of official influence. It is much more of a feeling of jealousy of strangers than a religious sentiment against Christians.

I also ascertained that many of the English families residing at the ports have Mussulman girls for servants instead of servants from among the native Jews, or from the neighbouring foreign countries. Most of these young women date their services from the time of the last famine (nine years ago), when they were rescued from death by being taken into the English homes.

In no case have I heard that any of these servants have been led to abandon the Mussulman faith, but there can be no doubt that they have all learnt to appreciate the difference of an English mode of life over that of a native one.

Under these circumstances, and also because, in the instance mentioned in the Moorish Commissioner's letter, I know that the girl whose dismissal I am specially called upon to obtain is living in a most respectable home, I am of opinion that it would be disastrous to encourage in the slightest degree the Moorish Government in its narrow-minded efforts to prevent the contact of Moors with the civilizing influence of foreigners living in Morocco.

I should always be prepared to listen to a representation in any particular case where a British subject by immoral intercourse with native women was likely to endanger public tranquillity through flying in the face of the religious prejudices of the Moors. But, as I am persuaded that the scope of the Sultan's Decree is what I have said above, your Lordship's permission to me to address a remonstrance to the Moorish Government against its retrograde policy would have a most beneficial effect. I have told my Italian colleague that Sir John Drummond Hay had not secured the influence over the Moorish Government which he had undoubtedly exercised for many years by admitting the freaks of its ignorant arrogance or pretensions to exclude itself from the outer world owing to its superiority over all others. On the contrary, my predecessor had gained respect

through unflinching firmness with the Moors. Nearly all, if not all, the advantages under which foreigners were now living in this country owed their existence to that firmness, and which had been as beneficial to the Moorish Government as to the foreigners themselves, for had the Moors been allowed to continue in their attempts to maintain their seclusion by the means devised by Sultans and their counsellors the Shereefian rule would long ago have been done away with, as one incapable of marching with the times.

Signor Scovasso was not aware that in the early days of Sir John Drummond Hay's residence in this country Edicts used to be sent from the Moorish Court to Tangier, under the charge of important Imperial officers and escorts, directing the Basha to order the Chiefs of the foreign Missions to prevent their wives and daughters from going abroad unveiled, or even from taking riding exercise on the Tangier beach. These orders were never acquiesced in by the English Representatives. They were rendered ridiculous by the contempt and disregard with which they were treated, and so it has come to pass that the Moorish Government is now generally considered as fairly desirous of not making itself obnoxious to the foreigners living within its lands.

To accept the present Edict of the Sultan would, to say the least, place British Consular officers in a dilemma should the English families decline to dismiss their servants or resent the imputations of the Decree. On the other hand its acceptance would certainly have the result of abolishing, at a stroke, the beneficial effects of my predecessor's policy, and of encouraging the Sultan in his present humour of restoring purity to the Mohammedan religion, as evinced by his efforts to stop smoking, the use of intoxicating drugs and drinks, &c.

Your Lordship's permission to me to point out to the Moorish Minister, in a friendly but firm manner, that a wrong path has been struck by the Sultan, I am sure is the only course which should be taken if it is wished to prevent a speedy clash in the foreign relations of this country.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Hedy Mohammed Ghassal to Sir W. K. Green.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Ramadan 18, 1304 (June 10, 1887).

A SHEREEFIAN Order has been issued to the authorities to prevent young Mussulman girls from serving with foreigners in their houses or elsewhere, because young girls give occasion to committing that which is contrary to religion. Foreigners are welcome to employ the services of women of a certain age, who are not a rock of offence.

I have to inform your Excellency that the Governor of Larache has received a Shereefian Order to the above effect, and has proceeded to put it in force, but there still remain those young girls who are in the service of the foreign Vice-Consuls at Larache and of foreign protégés and, among others, a girl serving in the house of a man named Fereres, who is a British protégé. I request you to write to your Vice-Consul to cause this girl to be dismissed from her service, and not to allow that any young women be employed (by those under his jurisdiction), and, if he stands in need of female servants, to apply to the Basha of the town. Peace!

(Signed) MOHAMMED-EL-GHASSAL.

## No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Viscount Lyons.\*

(No. 415.)

Foreign Office, July 13, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 5 of June 27, 1887: see Part XIV, No. 229.]

\* Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 209).

No. 12.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.\*

Foreign Office, July 13, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 5 of June 27, 1887 see Part XIV, No. 229.]

No. 13.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 18.)

(No. 82. Confidential.)

My Lord,

BY my despatch No. 54 of the 25th April last I had the honour to report to your Lordship the manner in which the Sultan, at the first private audience accorded me, had replied to my inquiries respecting the collective note of the 12th March.

Though I accepted at the time His Shereefian Majesty's observations as indicative of a wish to suspend action on the matter for the moment, still, when I again had the advantage of being received by the Sultan on the 30th April, I felt it was my duty to explain to him that it would be well for Cid Emfadi Gharneet to be instructed to send some kind of acknowledgment of the receipt of the collective note to my Spanish and Italian colleagues.

I told His Shereefian Majesty that Señor Diosdado, who intended to visit the Moorish Court when it should arrive at Rabat, might consider himself bound to mark his dissatisfaction at unnecessary delay having been observed in the acknowledgment of so solemn a document as the collective note, and which, as I had before shown His Majesty, was not the outcome of the private confabulations of the Spanish, Italian, and English Ministers in Morocco, but that of the carefully considered decisions of their respective Governments.

The Sultan, whilst thanking me for the suggestion made, and promising to direct his Minister to give me and my colleagues a written reply to the note, renewed our former conversation on the scope of the collective step taken by the three Governments.

Your Lordship probably knows that conversations of this nature with Eastern Rulers are generally barren of results, as the will of the individual is allowed to override all the logic in the arguments used.

In the present instance the Sultan suddenly brought this fact back to my recollection by meeting what I considered an unanswerable point with the remark "But if God wished it to be otherwise, all you have said could not take place."

I respectfully bowed acquiescence, and hastily changed the conversation, as I did not wish His Majesty to imagine he had somewhat crushed me by showing greater faith than mine in the omnipotence of our Creator.

Fourteen days later, and just as I was on the point of leaving the city of Morocco, Cid Emfadi Gharneet brought me the letter of which the inclosed is a translation. His Excellency said that he had addressed similar letters to the Spanish and Italian Ministers, who, he hoped, would be told by me how well the Sultan had understood the friendly purport of the collective note, and how, as soon as His Majesty had been enabled to consult some trusted advisers, a more ample acknowledgment would be made of the note.

I laughingly replied to the Cid that I would not fail to deliver his messages to my colleagues, but that I would certainly express to them at the same time my belief that the Sultan's advisers were the stars (His Majesty has the greatest faith in astrology) and M. Féraud, the French Minister. Cid Emfadi admitted that the Sultan was too prone to wait on astral combinations, but he protested vehemently against the assumption that M. Féraud's advice had been sought on the present occasion.

Since my return here I have freely communicated to Señor Diosdado and Signor Scovasso all that occurred at the Moorish Court with regard to the collective note. Both my Spanish and Italian colleagues interpret the simple acknowledgment conveyed to us of the note as the expression of the Sultan's desire to stand, if possible, alone—or, at all events, to avoid coming to a decision until he is in difficulties. They consequently agree with me that the political independence of Morocco must be watched over and guarded,

\* Also to War Office.

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without too much reliance being placed for the attainment of that end on the co-operation of Mulai Hassan and his Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Cid Emfadi Gharneet to the British, Spanish, and Italian Ministers.

Praise be to the one God!

(Translation.)

TO our friends, the intelligent, the sagacious, the able, the faithful counsellors, whose aim it is to increase and strengthen the friendship between their Governments and the Shereefian Government, the Spanish Minister, the Chevalier José Diosdado y Castillo, the British Minister, the Chevalier Kirby Green; and the Italian Minister, the Chevalier Stefano Scovasso. We make much inquiry concerning you, and desire that you be well at all times. (Which premised)

We have received your letter regarding the territory of this Empire, and have brought it to the knowledge of our Lord the Sultan immediately on its receipt, and His Majesty has considered it carefully and taken note of its contents, and shortly I will send you His Majesty's reply thereto.

May you continue in good health.

Finished, Shaban 19, 1304 (May 13, 1887)

(Signed) MUHAMMED EL MUFADDAL GHARNEET.

No. 14.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 19.)

(No. 95.)

My Lord,

Madrid, July 16, 1887.

AT an interview I had yesterday with Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, his Excellency informed me he had received a despatch from Count Benomar, the Spanish Minister at Berlin, with regard to the Convention of the 3rd July, 1880, which was signed at Madrid, respecting the right of protection of Moorish subjects by the Diplomatic and Consular Representatives of foreign Powers in Morocco.

Count Benomar had reported that Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and Austria were disposed to effect modifications in that Convention, that Great Britain was to take the lead in the matter, and that your Lordship had determined to instruct Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier to enter into communication with his colleagues of the above-mentioned countries, in order that collective action might be taken by them in the matter, with a view to approaching the Government of His Shereefian Majesty on the subject.

Nothing was said of France, and Señor Moret expressed his opinion that, inasmuch as the Madrid Convention had been chiefly worked through the influence of the French Ambassador at Madrid and by Señor Cánovas, who was at that time Prime Minister here, to the evident advantage of French interests in Morocco, he hardly anticipated that the French Government would be likely to agree to any substantial alteration in it. That would, however, his Excellency said, not make much difference if the majority of the other Powers were resolved on making a change. For his part, he added, he had never been a partizan of the Madrid Convention, and were it to be annulled he did not think it would be a bad thing, and that in that case there would be some chance of obtaining valuable commercial concessions from the Government of the Sultan, and also of seeing Franco's prestige in Morocco crippled. Señor Moret was anxious to learn, he said, from me any details on this subject with which your Lordship might feel disposed to furnish me to be communicated to him.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 58. Confidential.)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 21, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 62, Confidential, of the 4th July last, reporting your conversation with His Majesty the Sultan of Morocco on the subject of the collective note of the 12th March; and I have to state that I approve of your action as reported therein.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 17.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 60.)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 22, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 60 of the 3rd instant, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Moorish Acting Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, requesting you to cause all young Moorish women who may be in the service of British subjects to be dismissed, on the ground that the presence of Mussulman girls in the families of foreigners was likely to cause offence to the Mahomedan religion.

In reply, I have to state to you that it does not appear to me that any sufficient grounds are shown for this sudden and arbitrary interference with the employment of Moorish female servants by Europeans.

The measure casts, I consider, a grave imputation on foreigners, and cannot be more required now than at any previous time, and the danger of giving way to such movements on the part of the Moorish Government is that they are frequently a prelude to a series of vexatious restrictions attempted to be introduced on plausible grounds.

Pending further information, therefore, I have to instruct you to take no steps in the matter at present, and, if you are pressed for a reply, to state that you have referred the matter to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 18.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 109.)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, July 22, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 95 of the 16th instant, reporting a conversation you had had with the Spanish Minister of State on the subject of the Convention of the 3rd July, 1880, respecting the right of protection of Moorish subjects by the Diplomatic Representatives of foreign Powers in Morocco, and stating that Señor Moret desired to know the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

In reply, I have to refer you to my note to Count Hatzfeldt of the 14th June last, a copy of which I transmitted to you in my despatch No. 86 of the 18th of that month; and, in now inclosing, for your information, copies of telegraphic correspondence with Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco on the subject,\* I have to state that Her Majesty's Government are awaiting Sir W. K. Green's promised Report before deciding on their future action in the matter.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY

\* Nos. 4 and 9

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 25.)*

(No. 63.)  
My Lord,

*Tangier, July 12, 1887.*

I REGRET that, owing to my absence on my mission to the Moorish Court, considerable delay has taken place in the acknowledgment of your Lordship's despatch No. 13 [247] of the 17th May last, concerning certain alleged persecutions of Jews by the Moorish authorities in the northern province of this country.

With regard to the case of Reuben Tourjeman, I have the honour to furnish your Lordship herein with copies of a Memorandum, and its inclosure, which Mr. Horace White forwarded to me in connection with your Lordship's call for a Report on the matter. I also have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of a further letter on the same case, addressed to this Legation by the Acting Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs.

I think when the Jewish Board of Deputies and the Anglo-Jewish Association are in possession of the facts connected with Reuben Tourjeman's arrest and conveyance to Tangier, they will be prepared to admit that the case is not one of a persecution of the Jewish race by the Moorish authorities, requiring the intervention of the British Representative.

The best that can be said of the whole affair is that Reuben Tourjeman's money-lending transactions have been disputed by his debtors before the competent Tribunal, and that the Moorish authorities have treated him no better nor no worse than a Mahomedan who might have found himself under similar circumstances. It is unfortunately but too true that all proceedings connected with the recovery or otherwise of debts are accompanied in Morocco with considerable harshness, but it is also as true that the victims of this harshness are much oftener Mussulman than Jewish subjects of the Sultan.

That Reuben Tourjeman's case is a personal one, and not one of race, is further borne out by the fact that he has brought an action for damages against the "Times" newspaper of London, on the ground of having been libelled and stigmatized as a usurious money-lender.

With regard to the other cases of persecution brought under your Lordship's notice in Sir Julian Goldsmid's and Mr. Arthur Cohen's letter of the 11th May last, the accompanying copy of a letter, which I addressed to the Moorish Minister of Foreign Affairs at Morocco at almost the same moment that the aforementioned gentlemen's complaint reached your Lordship, will prove to them that I am ever watchful to protect Moorish Jews from persecution on the part of the local authorities.

Cid Emfadi Gharneet, on the receipt of my letter, assured me that the Sultan was determined upon making his functionaries understand that the Jews are to be treated on a perfect footing of equality with the Moors.

In support of this statement, I can assert that, during the whole course of my recent journey from one end of Morocco to the other, I was constantly assured by all the heads of the various and numerous Jewish communities who called on me when I was passing in their neighbourhood that their treatment by the Moorish authorities was most satisfactory, and that the state of the Jews in Morocco was daily and continuously improving.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 19.

#### Memorandum

HAVING heard that a Jew of Alcazar, named Reuben Tourjeman, had been brought to Tangier in fetters, and that two British subjects were supposed to have instigated the authorities to treat him in this manner, and send him by a circuitous route as a prisoner to Tangier, I took occasion to inquire of Hadj Mohammed Torres what truth there was in the report that had reached me.

Hadj Mohammed informed me that complaints had been made against Tourjeman by persons whom he had prosecuted for debt, and who had been imprisoned, that the claims he had put forward against them had been already paid either in full or in chief part, and that Tourjeman having disobeyed the order that he should go to law with the complainants, he (Torres) had directed the Governor of Larache to send him up to Tangier,



that the case be heard by the Cadi of this town, and that in conformity with this instruction Tourjeman was sent up.

To my inquiry why he had been sent fettered and by a circuitous route, Hadj Mohammed Torres replied that he had given no instructions as to the manner in which he should be sent, as it was not usual to do so; but the Governor, who was responsible for his safe custody and arrival at Tangier, had probably ordered him to be fettered to prevent his escape, as is customary when prisoners are sent from one place to another, and that he had sent him by a route only a little longer than the more direct route, as it afforded the opportunity of his safe custody each night in a walled town, whereas the more direct route, lying through open country, affords no accommodation whatever for the prisoner or his escort.

To my further inquiry whether the Moorish authority had acted in this manner at the request of a foreign subject, Hadj Mohammed stated distinctly that he had given the order to the Governor of Larache entirely *proprio motu*, and not at the request of any foreign subject, and that the Governor of Larache had acted on his own responsibility, and he had no reason to disapprove of his action.

Since the departure of Hadj Mohammed Torres to the Court at Morocco, the Acting Minister, Hadj Mohammed Ghassal, has communicated to me a statement of what has taken place at the Cadiz Court in the hearing of the complaints brought against Tourjeman.

I annex a translation of this statement, from which it will be seen that Tourjeman is not a worthy object of compassion, he having put forward unfounded claims against persons who were not indebted to him, thus causing them to be wrongfully incarcerated for long periods of time in the dungeons used as Moorish prisons.

The sufferings of the innocent victims of the false claims put forward by him appear to me to be far more worthy of commiseration than the comparatively light suffering caused to himself by his journey to Tangier in fetters.

Tangier, May 26, 1887.

(Signed) H. P. WHITE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 19.

Hadj Mohammed Ghassal to Mr. H. White.

(Translation)

(After compliments.)

14 Shaaban (May 8), 1887.

1. REUBEN TOURJEMAN having demanded of several persons payment of what they owed him according to notarial documents, being a very large sum of money, they pleaded that they had paid him sums of money on account, but the said Tourjeman having denied this, they presented in support of their statement a document, perfectly in order, drawn up by public notaries of Larache, and certified by the Cadi.

The Shraa then ordered that Tourjeman should make accounts with the debtors, or else present documents upsetting the documents presented by them. The Jew produced a declaration of common persons amongst the Arabs of Alcazar, which declaration was found by the Court of Shraa to be false. It was therefore pronounced that the plaintiffs were in the right, and Tourjeman had to submit to that which was just. The Shraa impounded the false document presented by Tourjeman, who, having made accounts with the plaintiffs, proved to be their creditor in about 80 dollars, whereas he had before claimed from them a very large sum.

2. Reuben Tourjeman had recovered from an individual an amount which the latter owed him. He subsequently claimed payment a second time of the same sum through the Governor, who had jurisdiction over the individual. The Governor made the latter person pay the sum claimed, and kept possession of it until the Shraa should judge the matter.

The parties having presented themselves before the Shraa, this Court decided that the right was with the said individual, he having already paid Tourjeman what he owed him.

The Shraa then pronounced Judgment, recognizing the right of the individual who proceeded with this Judgment to the Governor, upon whom he depended to recover the money he had deposited with him. Peace!

(Signed) MOHAMMED GHASSAL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 19.

Hadj Mohammed Ghassal to Mr. H. White.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Ramazan 29, 1304 (June 22, 1887).

WE have received your letter of the 27th Ramazan, in which you inform us that, although the Shraa had already given a decision in the case of Reuben Tourjeman (as I had told you), another case has been brought against him, and he was condemned to pay a sum of money, &c.; I have to inform you that a man arrived here from the Province of Larache, saying that Reuben Tourjeman had sued him for 100 dollars and interest, and he had paid 95 dollars, as verified by a legal document; and that he (Reuben) afterwards presented him another document for the whole 100 dollars and interest, and the Government took the money from him (the Moor) and it was paid to Reuben, then we sent them both to the Shraa, and the Moor was found to be in the right, and Reuben Tourjeman was condemned to pay it back, and paid the 95 dollars to the Moor after having been put in prison. Peace!

(Signed) MOHAMMED GHASSAL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 19.

Sir W. K. Green to Cid Enfadl Gharnet.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Morocco, May 10, 1887.

I HAVE just received from the Chief Rabbi and principal Jews of Tangier a letter reporting an outrage alleged to have been committed by the Mohtaseb of Alcazar on a Jew of that town. I enclose herewith a translation of an extract from their letter, which contains an account of what is said to have occurred, and I request your Excellency to bring the matter to the notice of the Sultan without delay, for I am convinced that His Shereefian Majesty, who, moved by the spirit of justice and humanity which animates him, has always been prompt to protect the oppressed of whatever creed, will cause a strict inquiry to be instituted into the matter, and should the accusation prove true, will severely punish the Mohtaseb, and make him pay compensation to the Jew. Peace!

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 20.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.\*

(No. 440.)

Foreign Office, July 25, 1887.

[Transmits copy of No. 399 to Mr. Scott, dated July 6, 1887: ante, No. 3.]

No. 21.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received July 27.)

(No. 84. Confidential.)

Tangier, July 19, 1887.

My Lord,

AS I only had the advantage of receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 46. Confidential, of the 12th May, whilst I was on my return journey from the Moorish Court, I was not able to act on the instructions conveyed to me by it until my arrival here, almost at the same time as your Lordship's further communication on the same subject, under No. 51 of the 18th ultimo, reached Tangier.

My three colleagues of Spain, Italy, and Germany have all informed me that their respective Governments have communicated to them their willingness to reconsider the question of foreign protection of Moorish subjects.

Herr von Saldern replied to my inquiries that he had not arrived at an independent conclusion on the matter other than that accepted by him shortly after his arrival in this country, when he had applied to me for my views on the prospect of concluding the Commercial Treaty which had been for so long a time under negotiation. He had

\* Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 222) and Sir Clare Ford (No. 210).

communicated those views to the German Government with a recommendation that they should be adopted and acted upon by it.

Señor Diosdado, whose opinions, owing to his long residence in this country, deserve the greatest consideration, is convinced that the time has arrived for putting a term to the abuses which have arisen under cover of the Madrid Convention. He, however, does not think that the foreign Governments would be justified in attempting to use their willingness to modify their rights of protection of natives as a lever for extorting commercial advantages from the Sultan. Señor Diosdado takes the higher ground that, it being admitted that an abuse has arisen out of a public instrument intended to have an opposite effect, it is the duty of the parties to that instrument to immediately set about to remedy the evil. He rejects as no remedy the idea of a number of the Signatories to the Convention determining to abstain from exercising their rights under it. Señor Diosdado says the Madrid Convention must be formally modified, and that this can only be accomplished by the meeting, for the purpose, of a second Conference.

But it is here, I fear, that Señor Diosdado is raising for us all formidable obstacles.

There is no need for me to hide from your Lordship the fact that the chief offenders in the matter of protection of Moors are the French. The French have made political capital out of the Madrid Convention. The Spanish and English protected subjects are numerous too, not because the Representatives of those nations have used, like the French, patents of protection on political grounds, but merely because the Spanish and British communities in Morocco are numerous, and advantages could not be well denied to them which the Moorish Government weakly accorded to others.

Señor Diosdado states that the right of protection must be abolished for all, or not at all. He has every hope that the French Government can be brought, by the united moral pressure of the other interested Powers, to forego a process by which it has been rapidly raising up a native party in Morocco hostile to the reigning dynasty, and favourable to a French Protectorate.

The Spanish Minister is equally sanguine in the other direction of obtaining commercial facilities from the Sultan of Morocco when the question of protection shall have been finally properly settled. He says the Moorish Government, the moment it feels itself unquestioned master of its own subjects, will at once get rid of its present dread of increasing its intercourse with foreigners, and that advances for the conclusion of Commercial Conventions conceived on a liberal basis are sure to be made from the side of the Sultan.

Signor Scovasso also considers the revision of the Madrid Convention of absolute and immediate necessity. From having been formerly the most ardent supporter of foreign protection of Moorish subjects, he has now, through the abuses committed under cover of the Convention, come to see that the Moorish Government has been dragged on the high road to destruction. Signor Scovasso consequently purposes urging at Rome that immediate steps be taken for the meeting of a second Conference at Madrid.

The Italian Minister shares Señor Diosdado's opinion that protection must be abandoned by all or not at all; but he also wishes that the Sultan should give valid guarantees that the Moorish Government will be conducted under regular forms, and that justice, and not arbitrary acts, shall be practised.

The proposal which I had the honour to bring under your Lordship's notice in my despatch No. 6, Commercial, of the 10th February last, was made on practical grounds. I did not at the time contemplate that it might lead to an attempt to reform the Moorish system of government.

When I arrived in Morocco last autumn I found that negotiations had been going on for eight years between England, France, and Germany on one side, and Morocco on the other, for the conclusion of a Commercial Treaty. A perusal of those negotiations led me almost to imagine that I had been asleep but for a night, and not that I had been absent from Morocco for eighteen years. The Moorish negotiators had been resisting the arguments of their European colleagues under the old tiring system of a doubt here, a denial there, and studied silence whenever practicable. At last, apparently pushed into a corner, the Sultan determined to resort to a direct refusal of new Treaty engagements, on the plea of increased commercial intercourse with abroad meaning the withdrawal from under his control of thousands of his subjects.

The proposal put forward by me was intended to meet this refusal of the Sultan, and I still think it may prove in the end not only the most practical with regard to obtaining commercial concessions, but also with respect to absolving us from the ever-increasing call to withdraw a number of Moors from the lawful control of their own Government.

Then, if Señor Diosdado's hope that the French Government will consent to modify its political scheming is not realized, and if Signor Scovasso finds that the Sultan is unable to give satisfactory security that he will reform his administration, is there any other practical solution available than what is contained in my suggestions?

The reverting of the French-protected Moors to Maroccan allegiance will not only mean that M. Péraud will have to cease to claim jurisdiction over the endless native Jews who have, under one pretext or the other, placed themselves under the French flag, but also the casting off from French protection of the Shercof of Wazan and his numberless followers. The difficulties of such a situation for the French Government and its Representative here appear to me to be so great that I do not believe in their ever being honestly met.

As for Signor Scovasso's call for guarantees of an immediate reform in Maroccan administration, it is either a demand for the unattainable, or another way of requiring a change (revolutionary change) in the present Moorish Government.

Guarantees, when they came to be discussed, would be found to be beyond the mental reach of the Sultan, and therefore beyond being offered spontaneously by His Majesty. They would have to be taken—that is, the foreign Governments would have to be ready to enforce their decisions on the Sultan.

Signor Scovasso would admit this, if he is not somewhat under the impression that the maladministration of Morocco is a matter of to-day, and not as well of the past. He thinks the Administration can revert to a better past. But I do not believe that the Moorish Government is a bit worse now than ever it was before. It is, and always has been (at all events, as far as concerns present history—say for the last 300 years), a repressive and not a fostering Power. Its one sole aim has been to keep down the people, to prevent the development of strength and riches, to crush and to frighten by pillage and cruelty. Signor Scovasso perhaps has concluded that things are worse now because Mulai Hassan is invariably successful in his pillaging raids against his provinces and tribes. Formerly the Sultans used often to find themselves obliged to temporize with powerful feudal Governors and tribes, and represent their defeats as the staying of their wrath through a sense of religious clemency. The strength of the Government was then not overwhelming, as it is now. The few thousands of half-disciplined troops which the Sultan has now armed with breech-loading rifles, support by a few batteries of artillery, have upset the balance, and His Shercofian Majesty has therefore no need, as before, to mask his ravaging and destruction by pretences of religious duty and the interests of Islam.

The only security that may be depended upon when the Moors who are now under foreign protection come again within the Sultan's jurisdiction is a formal declaration from the Governments who gave up their protégés that the slightest attempt at persecution or injustice against the said Moors will be treated as a diplomatic question between the interested Government and the Sultan. Fear of an undefined danger would probably be found enough to keep the Moorish authorities straight.

For other reforms in the Maroccan administration I am sure Signor Scovasso need not dream until the Powers most interested in the maintenance of a Mahomedan State here decide upon imposing their acceptance upon the Ruler.

Should it ultimately be seen, as I fear it may, that there is no likelihood of a revision of the Madrid Convention being unanimously agreed upon, I would then respectfully submit to your Lordship that either capital should be made with the Sultan out of a disposition on our part to modify our rights of protecting natives, or that, in any case, a careful examination should be made of the supposed advantages which are derived by British subjects from the manner in which the Madrid Convention has been used. From what I was able to learn from my intercourse with the British merchants (*bond fide* British merchants, and not British subjects merely trading on their nationality) whom I recently visited the different ports of Morocco, these merchants are mostly prepared to give up their protection privileges which, they assert, are merely useful in the hands of persons ready to adopt Oriental modes of trading.

The United States' Government has already directed its Representative here to eliminate all natives from under his jurisdiction, and to maintain his influence intact for the benefit of American citizens.

Herr von Saldern and I are watching with interest this proceeding, as we both believe that the advantages of our respective nationalities ought, as much as possible, to be the privileges of those who are German or English by right of birth, and not only so through the forced interpretation or abuse of a Treaty stipulation.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.





Nevertheless, I readily accept M. Péraud's assurances that French policy in Morocco is at present quiescent, though I hardly think it necessary to cease watching my French colleague, and to, instead, keep my eye on the irresponsible Count Chavagnac

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 30.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.---(Received August 10.)

(No. 71. Confidential.)

My Lord,

It is with great pleasure that I am enabled to send herewith to your Lordship a copy of a Report addressed to me by Lieutenant Boulnois on the present state of the Moorish military forces, as that promising young officer has now recovered from a dangerous fever, which he contracted during his journey with me from the Court of Morocco, and which, perhaps, he might have avoided had he not worked, regardless of exposure to the sun, with so much zeal in collecting topographical data. Mr. Boulnois tells me that he has not yet gained sufficient strength to be able to sketch properly the Map which I purpose sending to your Lordship, as I have already had the honour of reporting in my despatch No. 58 of the 23rd June last.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

Inclosure in No. 30.

Lieutenant Boulnois, R.A., to Sir W. K. Green.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, at your request, the following Report regarding the Moorish army

The following information about the actual strength, &c., of the army I received from Kaid Maclean, Instructor-General to the Moorish army

The infantry at present is 17,000 strong, of which number 5,000 are well-trained men. They are always kept near the Sultan, and serve for an unlimited period.

The remaining 12,000 serve for a limited period. They are trained at the Emperor's head-quarters for the first three or four months, after which their number is so greatly reduced by desertion that practically very few reach the towns which they are then sent to garrison. Kaid Maclean has adopted a district organization for the regiments, so that each regiment consists of men belonging to one particular district. The drawback to this system in Morocco is that a whole regiment often deserts at one time.

The regular cavalry consists of 5,000 men, who are also supposed to accompany the Sultan wherever he goes. A good many of these men are armed with Winchester rifles.

Besides these troops, whenever the Emperor goes on an expedition, all the Kaïds or Chiefs of the tribes under control have to provide a certain number of mounted and foot irregulars, which swells the ranks of the army considerably. The men are, on account of the constant fighting amongst the tribes, well accustomed to the art of warfare, but are, however, difficult to control. The supply of these latter troops counts in lieu of a portion of taxes due by the tribes.

When the Emperor went to Sees last year he took an army of 40,000 men.

I was fortunate enough to see a large review parade held by Kaid Maclean. There were 5,000 infantry on parade in six battalions. I saw them march past, and do the manual exercise, and though they had only been under Kaid Maclean for six weeks, the performance was very creditable. Amongst them was a battalion of the Emperor's Guards, part of the 5,000 trained infantry. They appeared to be very steady on parade, and to know their drill thoroughly. All the recruits wore a regular uniform of red knickerbockers, very loose and baggy, a light blue jacket, and red fez.

Kaid Maclean has personally to superintend every parade and has always great difficulties to contend with, owing to the absolute want of interest and lack of discipline, or power of control, amongst the officers. As soon as he is out of sight officers and men stop work and lie down.

All words of commands are given in English.

The results attained by Kaid Maclean are marvellous, considering the material he has to work on, and shows that he possesses enormous strength of character to exert so great a personal influence over all under his command.

The material in the shape of guns, rifles, &c., possessed by the Sultan is as follows:—

- 25 new Krupp (9-pounder) breech-loading guns, complete
- 25 new Krupp mountain-guns.
- 6 brass mountain-guns (French).
- 25 muzzle-loading mountain-guns (150 lbs., English).
- 1 Hotchkiss 6-pounder machine-gun, with ammunition.
- 1 Gardner machine-gun.
- 6 mitrailleuses.
- Several old brass field-guns.

These are all at Morocco, where there are three French officers and a sergeant to teach the Moorish gunners.

As regards the garrison artillery, it is hardly worth mentioning. The guns are none of them bigger than 68-pounder smooth-bores.

No care is taken of them, and all the iron guns I saw were honeycombed with rust. Most of the guns at the less important places—as Casablanca, Larache, Azamor, &c.—if mounted at all, are mounted on Moorish carriages, made entirely of wood. The arrangements for laying the guns are not understood.

At Rabat there are fifty guns, of which a good many could not be fired at all; moreover, the powder is kept on the opposite side of the river, at Sala, or Salée. At Rabat there is a French officer and a sergeant to teach artillery.

The Sultan has 10,000 Martini-Henry rifles and bayonets.

There are sufficient rifles of different kinds, with bayonets, to arm the whole army.

There are 1,000 Winchester rifles, with which a portion of the cavalry is armed.

All the small arms are well taken care of, and in excellent order.

There is a powder factory and laboratory at Morocco, under the charge of a renegade Italian, who has several other Europeans under him.

I was informed that there they manufacture small-arms ammunition and ammunition for the field and mountain guns.

Transport in Morocco is all done by means of pack animals. There are no carts.

In the army, every regiment is allowed so many mules—

- 2 mules for baggage per company
- 1 for the drums.
- 4 for the Kaid, or Colonel.
- 2 for the Khaliha, or Major.

Twenty-five men make use of one tent, which are small bell tents without walls.

A company mule is supposed to carry—

- The two tents.
- Couscoussoo-pol
- A little couscoussoo.
- (Couscoussoo being the national dish)

No mats or sleeping apparatus allowed.

The Moorish soldier has no personal baggage.

Food and forage on the march are obtained by requisition, so to speak, that is, it counts as taxes paid.

As regards transport animals, mules worth 60 dollars, in average times, carry 300 lbs. and a man in "selwarries," or baskets made in the country. Good pack costs 5 dollars.

Watered and fed once a-day on march, at night.

Pack-mules are small, 12 or 13 hands.

Donkeys march eight or ten hours a-day, carrying a man, and cost from 12 to 24 dollars on the average.

Camels worth from 30 to 70 dollars, generally about 40 dollars.

Carry up to 5 cwt.

Go 25 miles a day, at rate of 2 to 2½ miles per hour only.

Fed once in four days, and allowed 60 lbs. of barley.

Stages can be built, carried by two, four, or six camels, or more even.

In wet weather camels require leather boots with spurs.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. A. BOULNOIS.

Mr. J. G. Kennedy to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 210.)

My Lord,

Rome, August 4, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation, by Mr. Adam, of an article which recently appeared in the Italian journal "La Riforma," upon the relations of Italy and France in Tunis.

The views expressed in this article respecting the action of Cardinal Lavignerie, the growing antagonism between the Italian and French colonists in Tunis, and the firm language addressed to France, derive importance from the fact that the "Riforma" is the recognized organ of Signor Crispi, who, as your Lordship is aware, holds the acting appointments of President of the Council and of Minister for Foreign Affairs, besides the office of Minister of the Interior.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. G. KENNEDY.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Extract from "La Riforma" of July 19, 1887.

(Translation.)

THE "Italia" and "Opinione" both comment upon an article in the "Figaro" respecting Tunis, and the relations of Italy and France in that Regency. This would be paying too great an honour to the Parisian journal, which certainly does not enjoy the reputation of a high authority in politics, were not the opinions which it expresses also those to which a fairly important section of the French press gives utterance, with more or less reserve.

It is but just to admit that, of late, the press in question has shown signs of a certain change of policy, even though this may be only due to the influence of some statesman; but we are still far from that calm equity without which no true intimacy of relations can ever exist.

It is therefore well that two Italian newspapers, distinguished, the one by the political and Parliamentary position which it occupies in this country, and the other by a desire to express freely the views of common sense, should, in replying to the "Figaro," have replied to that portion of the French press which still exhibits towards us an unjustifiable spirit of irritation.

The "Figaro" charges our Government, and more especially Signor Crispi, with endeavouring to maintain Italian influence in Tunis, particularly by means of the Italian schools, and these it would have paralyzed by means of fuller protection granted to Cardinal Lavignerie, while the "Italia" declares that, if the Italian Government is indeed acting thus, it is a matter for satisfaction, and the "Opinione" blames the Parisian sheet for reopening a question which we had deemed to be finally closed.

Now, we ought above all, to give the truth its due.

If the Italian name is still esteemed highly, and has some value assigned to it in the Regency, the merit belongs above all to our colony there, which has been, and continues to be, beyond all praise.

Tried, cruelly tried, as that colony has been, with far more right to complain of the mother-country than reason to praise her, its patriotism has grown ever warmer and more active in proportion to the difficulties to be overcome and the increase of dangers and losses. It is due to its voluntary self-denial, to its spontaneous and liberal subscriptions, that the education of the Italian laity in Tunis has not fallen through, and the Government, both in the past and present, has merely done its duty towards the colony, so far as it could with the trifling sum allowed here for schools abroad.

This, then, is due to the colony, and also a little to that influence of Cardinal Lavignerie, which not only the "Figaro," but the "République Française," and other Liberal papers, have always supported, in accordance with the principle of Catholic dependency.

That influence, indeed, from the manner in which it is exercised, may have succeeded in securing for France the ignorant masses, but even the French intelligent elements shrink from it. M. Cambon had perceived that it might become but little less hurtful than that of General Boulanger, and had sought to restrain them both within their proper limits.

It has been seen what troubles, in fulfilment of our easy predictions, Boulanger has brought upon the Republic; those which Lavignerie will cause, if he is allowed freedom to act, will be no less great, and the Vatican must considerably regret having let him get the better of the Italian element at Tunis, which was worthily represented by an aged prelate, Mgr. Suteri, who had never learnt to divide his country from his religion, and died, soon after he was removed from his See, more from a broken heart than from old age.

Now that M. Cambon has been removed, the work of pacification, successfully begun by him, a work in which the Italians participated with the greatest good-will, has been interrupted, and the antagonism between the two colonies seems springing up afresh. Whose fault is this? We refer impartial persons, for the explanation, to the "Unione," a worthy Italian newspaper published at Tunis, which only a few days ago proved, by indisputable facts, that if the Italian colony lives apart, it is just because the French colony and authorities have declined to take any notice of it in the most important events of civil life.

The Italian colony at Tunis, in pursuing a conciliatory course of action, obeyed the dictates of a patriotism to which no one in Italy has turned a deaf ear.

When the Tunisian question was settled, we, who had so keenly desired a different solution, were the first to declare that it ought not to lead to an irremediable antagonism between Italy and France in the Mediterranean, and that it might even become the starting-point for a friendly exchange of views, and for a thorough definition of the sphere of their respective interests, so that they might continue to act in accord.

It may be true that former Italian Cabinets did not greet the above suggestions with enthusiasm; but it is certain that at Paris they were not even listened to, and indeed, while the friendly advances should have come from Paris whence the injury had come, there came from thence, on the contrary, language which might be considered defiant, and acts which amounted to fresh injuries.

And now, how do we stand?

We are unaware how far the present situation may admit of fresh political arrangements. We do know that we are not animated by any ill-will towards France, no more at Tunis than anywhere else.

But we also know that the Italian Government would fail in the first of its duties if it failed to support, within the bounds marked by international relations, the efforts made by our fellow-countrymen abroad to remain united to the mother-country, to represent her worthily, and to preserve to her a precious store of moral and material force.

No. 32

[Nd.]

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 72 Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 4, 1887

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that my Spanish colleague, Señor Diosdado, who has been for some time past under orders to proceed on a visit to the Moorish Court, having received trustworthy information of the Sultan's approach to Rabat, will leave on the 6th instant for that port in the Spanish iron-clad "Navarra."

To-day, when calling on Señor Diosdado, he most frankly volunteered to tell me the object of his mission.

It was, he said, intended to be a visit of courtesy to the Sultan. There were no political questions of great importance pending between Spain and Morocco. Two years ago Mulai Hassan had dispatched an Embassy to the Court of Madrid, which he (Señor Diosdado) had accompanied. The object of the Embassy had been to seek the support of the Spanish Government in bringing to a term the evils which had arisen under the stipulations of the Madrid Convention of the 3rd July, 1880, concerning the right of protection in Morocco. But when the Embassy reached Madrid King Alfonso XII was on his death-bed, and Cid Abd el-Malik, the Ambassador, under Señor Diosdado's counsels, when the King in a day or two died, resolved the Embassy into one of condolence, and merely made known, confidentially, to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs the Sultan's difficulties through the foreign protection of Moors.

The dignified and appropriate bearing of the Moorish Ambassador during the first days of mourning appear to have caused a most favourable impression on the Queen, who from that date has been most anxious that a return Mission should be sent to Mulai Hassan, bearing Her Majesty's expressions of appreciation of the Sultan's messages of sympathy at the time of her trouble.

This Señor Diosdado assured me was the reason for his now proceeding to Rabat. As customary, he was taking some valuable gifts to the Sultan, among which were not only a couple of mountain cannons complete with mules, harness, and other appurtenances, rich velvets and silk brocades of Spanish manufacture, but also some special presents selected by the Queen-Regent herself for the Sultan.

Señor Diosdado then added to me that he would necessarily have to allude, when seeing the Sultan, to the original objects of Cid Abd el Malik's Embassy to Madrid. He would be asked to do so, he trusted, in a satisfactory manner, in face of the almost generally admitted fact that foreign protection of Moors, as at present practised was seriously affecting the independence of Morocco. Señor Diosdado proposed advising the Sultan, in order to facilitate the action of foreign Governments, to himself take the lead in the matter, and as Madrid had been the place where the Convention had been concluded, to call upon the Spanish Government to take the necessary steps for assembling another Conference to revise the Convention in the manner which an experience of seven years has made most evident.

My Spanish colleague led me to understand that so convinced is the Madrid Government of the injustice done to Morocco under the working of the Convention that it is prepared to throw up unconditionally the whole right of protection, and Señor Diosdado, if he finds the Sultan rather loath about asserting his rights, will explain to His Shereefian Majesty how, on difficulties being encountered in certain quarters about the revision of the Convention, the Moorish Government can, under international usage, denounce the Convention altogether as being incompatible with the existence of Morocco as a free sovereign State.

Señor Diosdado also explained to me the language he would hold to the Sultan with regard to the recent collective note which we, together with our Italian colleague, had addressed to the Moorish Government in March last, but I have thought it best to reserve this subject for a separate report.

I must here state to your Lordship that I did not express a decided opinion to Señor Diosdado with regard to his proposed course at the Moorish Court concerning the question of protection. He is well aware that I agree with him as to the evils of the system of protection, and I have no doubt the Sultan and his Ministers will know that it is not only the Spanish Minister who sympathizes with them in the daily difficulties which they have to encounter under the Madrid Convention.

I was rather silent with Señor Diosdado about the unconditional abandonment of

the right of protection, because I do not share his unbounded faith in the good-will of the Sultan towards increasing his intercourse with the outer world, and also because I am not quite certain that Señor Diosdado himself wishes the immediate commercial development of Morocco.

Whilst admitting that protection of natives could be at once abandoned, I yet think it would be more politic to make the most of the abandonment. I am daily becoming more and more convinced that it is hopeless to look for spontaneous progress from the side of the Sultan, and that he will only advance in the right direction under compulsion.

Before concluding, I also wish to add most confidentially to your Lordship that though my Spanish and Italian colleagues accept outwardly the axiom that for self-preservation Morocco must march with the times, still, they both leave me strongly under the impression of working quite in the contrary direction.

They seem to overlook the intimate connection existing between political and commercial interests because Spain and Italy have but a small commerce with Morocco, and to imagine that the Sultan can safely shut his doors against those nations who have really an important Moorish trade until His Shereefian Majesty's subjects wake up to the need of supplying their wants either from Spain or Italy.

Señor Diosdado, each time I advocate to him the necessity of progress on the part of the Moorish Government, holds up before me the dangers of a fanatical outbreak against foreigners if more than existing facilities are accorded them, and the bugbear presented to me by Signor Scovasso is that the introduction of civilizing influences is another manner of giving a free hand to the French in Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 73. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 4, 1887.

MY Spanish colleague, Señor Diosdado, mentioned to me, in the course of conversation to-day, that when he saw the Sultan on his coming visit to Rabat he would not fail to remind His Shereefian Majesty that the collective note which we had, together with the Italian Minister, addressed to the Moorish Government in March last was still without the answer which Cid Emfadi Gharoet in his formal acknowledgment of the note had promised would be forthcoming.

Señor Diosdado said he would merely do this in order to give the Sultan an opportunity of speaking with him on the matter. The Spanish Minister added he did not think M. Féraud had been consulted thereon by the Sultan, but that the Moorish Government was afraid to act up to the collective note lest it should lead the French Government to decide upon cutting off the possibility of further engagements with foreign Governments by at once proclaiming a Protectorate over Morocco.

Señor Diosdado has promised to keep me informed of whatever passes between the Sultan and himself on this subject.

It is only now that the local press appears to have become aware that a cession of Moorish territory was effected during the French Minister's presence at Morocco last autumn.

The information published on this head is derived from native sources and is somewhat confused, but the tone assumed is as if the whole question was still pending and not likely to be settled in accordance with French wishes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.



*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 15.)*

(No. 74.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, with reference to my despatch No. 72, Confidential, of the 4th instant, that the Spanish Minister left last night in the iron-clad "Navarra" for Rabat, where it is expected he will arrive to-day in the course of the forenoon.

I learn from Vice-Consul Frost that a week ago the Sultan was within a short day's march of Rabat, but that he since suddenly retraced his steps, owing to a reported attack on the rear of his army by an insurgent tribe, and is now four days distant from the town.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 36.

*Mr. Scott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 15.)*

(No. 302.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 371 and 372 of the 5th instant, transmitting, for my information, copies of correspondence with Her Majesty's Representatives at Tangier and Madrid on questions connected with Morocco, I have the honour to state that Count Berchem told me a few days ago that the German Minister at Tangier had general instructions to co-operate and consult with his English colleague on all local questions. Count Berchem was, however, personally of opinion that the Sultan of Morocco and his Ministers were not at present in a mood to pay much attention to any representations, however reasonable or strong, preferred by the foreign Consuls.

If, however, it were possible to give practical effect to the views shared by the Governments of Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Spain, and by common agreement to put a stop to the abuses of Consular protection, which were apparently the chief cause of the Sultan's suspicions and distrust of foreign Governments, he felt convinced that we should soon find the Sultan accessible to advice, and inclined to reasonable concessions on commercial as well as all other questions.

Count Berchem said that France was evidently the only Power at present seriously disinclined to reasonable concessions on the protection question, and he thought that a fresh Conference at Madrid having as its object the modification of the Convention of 1880 would have in any case the advantageous result of showing the Sultan which of the Powers were his real friends. Count Berchem's remarks were made in an informal manner, as conveying merely a personal opinion and not a definite suggestion.

To instance the arbitrary freaks of the Sultan of Morocco when dealing with foreign Consuls, Count Berchem cited the case of a request recently addressed to Herr von Saldern in the Sultan's name, that he should order one of his Vice-Consuls, who happened to be an Englishman, to dismiss a Mussulman maid-servant from his service. The case seems to have been precisely similar to the one reported on by Sir W. Kirby Green in his despatch No. 60 of the 3rd ultimo. The Vice-Consul in question was, Count Berchem said, a highly respectable man far advanced in years, and there was not the slightest ground for scandal or suspicion in his having this Mussulman girl in his house.

Under ordinary circumstances, the German Government invariably instructed their subordinate Consular officers to pay every respect to any order emanating from a local authority, but in the present case Herr von Saldern, after taking the advice of Sir W. Kirby Green, had decided not to comply with so unreasonable a request, and the German Government approved his having done so.

Count Berchem seemed to agree with Sir W. Kirby Green that it was inexpedient at present to yield to every arbitrary whim of His Moroccan Majesty.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CHARLES E. SCOTT.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 16.)*

(No. 75. Confidential.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 72, Confidential, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have good reason to believe that Señor Diosdado, if he finds it needful to explain to the Sultan that His Majesty is entitled, according to international law, to denounce the Convention of Madrid of 1880, and Mulai Hassan appears alarmed at resorting to so energetic a course, will use the following argument in order to remove the Sultan's fears:—

Señor Diosdado will point out that the Conference was assembled at Madrid in 1880 in order to regulate rights to protection already obtained, and not to secure new ones. At that time all the foreign Governments except the Spanish, English, and Austrian were in favour of giving a wide interpretation to those rights, and therefore, when Admiral Juarès met the Moorish Plenipotentiary's declaration that the Sultan would close his ports against foreign commerce if protection of natives was not modified by the rejoinder that the Moorish ports could be as easily forced open as those of China had been, Cid Mohamed Bargaah had nothing else to do but to submit. Now the state of affairs was very different. Most of the foreign Governments had become convinced by experience that the protection of natives, as at present practised, is an intolerable abuse, so that if a successor to Admiral Juarès was to use threats at a new Conference, he would find himself in a minority, and the Sultan's Plenipotentiary could disregard him, strong in the support of the majority of the Representatives of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 38.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.)

ARE any untried prisoners still confined in prison on British claims? Reply by telegraph.

*Foreign Office, August 20, 1887.*

No. 39.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 62. Ext. 15.)

Sir,

I HAVE to request you to inform me, by telegraph, whether any untried prisoners are still confined in Moorish prisons on British claims.

The substance of the above was sent to you by telegraph to-day.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

SALISBURY.

No. 40.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 21, 5 P.M.)*

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, no one has been untried at my instance since my arrival. It is quite possible there are prisoners for debt in the

[700]

*Tangier, August 21, 1887, 12 40 P.M.*

H

interior and down the coast. I had to make representations about local authorities detaining debtors against will of British creditors. At Salee I had two insolvent debtors released on my own responsibility.

British creditors sometimes obtain imprisonment of their debtors direct from the Moorish authorities without the knowledge of British officials.

## No. 41.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)*

(No. 79.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, August 10, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that a Circular has been addressed by the Moorish Government to the foreign Representatives, calling upon them, on the pretext that the Sultan has issued stringent orders for the performance of military service by his Mussulman subjects and as to the proper police of the country, to obtain the dismissal from the employ of all foreign residents, except officials, of the men who owe military service to the Government, and who are acting as guards with their present masters.

I understand that in some quarters the demand has been looked upon as an Imperial prohibition to Mussulmans to serve Christians, the military tenure of land at once bringing most respectable Mahomedans, such as are in the service of foreigners, under the terms of the Sultan's Decree.

I have not thought it expedient, however, to give this interpretation to the communication from the Moorish Government, and, whilst promising to do my best to prevent British subjects from unduly interfering with local military and police arrangements, have pointed out that the Basha would incur a grave responsibility if they insisted upon depriving British subjects indiscriminately of the means hitherto allowed them, under ancient customs and regulations, of, when necessary, obtaining additional protection for their persons and property.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

## No. 42.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 22.)*

(No. 80.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, August 14, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Sultan entered Rabat on the 8th instant, the day after the arrival there of the Spanish Mission.

I understand that the Zaïr tribe, which has lately been impeding the Sultan's progress, has been severely punished, and that, besides 500 prisoners having been made, eighty-five decapitated heads have been distributed and sent for exposure on the walls of the principal towns of the Empire.

Mulal Hassan, it is said, will make but a short stay at Rabat, as he purposes celebrating the Feast of the Sacrifice, which commences fifteen days hence, at Mequinez.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

## No. 43.

*Question asked in the House of Commons, August 22, 1887.*

*Mr. Alexander MacArthur.*—To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, having regard to the desirability of imposing judicial penalties upon foreigners in Morocco who have committed acts of oppression on unoffending natives, Her Majesty's Government will consider the expediency of giving fuller powers to Her Majesty's Representative at Tangier to punish British subjects, whether naturalized or otherwise, who may have been guilty of such offences.

And whether any untried prisoners are still confined in Moorish prisons on English claims.

*Answer.*

*Sir J. Ferguson.*—Without some specification of the alleged offences it is not possible to say whether the British Consular Court at Tangier requires fuller powers for their repression should any British subjects be guilty of them. The Court has power to apply generally the criminal law of England where British subjects are charged with any crime or offence, and a new Order in Council regulating British jurisdiction in Morocco is at the present time under consideration, and will shortly be issued. Her Majesty's Government have been informed by Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier that no one has been imprisoned at his instance since his arrival, that he has procured the release of two insolvent debtors, and that he had intervened to discourage the detaining of debtors in other cases. He added that there might be some prisoners for debt at a distance from the capital.

## No. 44.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 63. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, August 22, 1887.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 64 and 66, Confidential, of the 12th and 18th ultimo respectively, in which you inform me that the Governments of Germany, Italy, and Spain have communicated to their Representatives at Tangier their willingness to reconsider the question of foreign protection of Moorish subjects.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that, as a preliminary step to the modification of the Madrid Convention of 1880, it would be desirable to ascertain how far His Majesty the Sultan would be disposed to meet the Powers who are parties to that Convention in the spirit of conciliation which is manifested by them, and whether, in the event of its provisions being modified in such a manner as to remove all reasonable ground of complaint, His Majesty will pledge himself to grant in return certain commercial facilities which are much needed, and which would not only result in reciprocal benefits, but greatly improve the friendly relations between Morocco and foreign Powers.

Such commercial facilities might be discussed on the basis of the draft Treaty which has been so long under negotiation between the Sultan and the British and German Governments.

I am disposed to concur in the view entertained by the Representatives of Italy and Spain that "protection must be abolished for all, or not at all;" for it is believed that, owing to the particular system of carrying on trade in the interior, it would not be possible for British merchants to compete successfully with those of other nationalities, unless they were on the same footing as regards the protection of their agents. But I am unable to agree in the suggestion of Señor Diodado that the provisions of the Madrid Convention should be abandoned without any pledge on the part of the Sultan that he will grant the commercial facilities which His Majesty has so long and so unreasonably withheld.

You will therefore confer with the Representatives of Germany, Italy, and Spain as to the expediency of proceeding in the sense indicated in this despatch, and if they should concur in the course proposed, you are authorized to unite with them in any joint action which may be considered desirable with a view to a preliminary discussion of the question with the Sultan on the basis of mutual concessions.

Should the result of these negotiations offer a fair prospect of arrangement, it will become necessary to consider whether it will suffice, at all events in the first place, to convene a meeting of the foreign Representatives at Tangier to discuss the details, or whether another Conference should take place at Madrid, as urged by Signor Scovasso.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

## No. 45.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)*

(No. 28.)  
My Lord,

Tunis, August 16, 1887.  
BY the Foreign Office despatch No. 1 of the 2nd January, 1886, I was requested to report on a Petition of Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, of Malta, who had made a claim for compensation for alleged losses at Gabs on its occupation by French troops in 1881.

The required report formed the subject of my despatch No. 2, Commercial, of the 16th January. Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar's claim was then forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris to be presented to the French Government. By Sir Julian Pauncefote's despatch No. 4 of the 10th April, I was requested to invite the petitioners to submit the evidence in support of their claims to the competent authorities. Much documentary evidence was accordingly furnished me by the petitioners' lawyer, which, on the 7th July of the same year, I submitted to M. Cambon, the then Minister Resident. M. Cambon, by his letter of the 11th July, informed me that he had transmitted the evidence forwarded by me to the General commanding the Brigade of Occupation in Tunis. In answer to an inquiry on my part whether any solution had been given to the claim, the Acting Resident, on the 11th September, informed me that all the papers connected with the claim had been sent to the Minister of War in Paris. On the 2nd January of this year I inquired of the new Minister Resident what was the result of the inquiry into Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar's claim, and was informed by M. Mascassut that a decision would soon be arrived at. On the 2nd May I again ventured to press a settlement of this claim, and another time on the 8th of the present month. To this last appeal M. Mascassut replied in these terms:—

"J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le Ministre de la Guerre a cru devoir se dessiner de cette réclamation et qu'il en a renvoyé le dossier à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères."

It would thus appear that no further action in this matter can be taken by me.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

## No. 46.

*Anglo-Jewish Association to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 24.)*

My Lord,

100, Rutherford Avenue, August 18, 1887.  
I AM directed most gratefully to acknowledge your Lordship's letter of the 9th instant, and the copy of a Confidential despatch received from Her Majesty's Representative in Tangier, concerning the case of Tourgeman, and on the opinions expressed about Tourgeman by some of the heads of the Moorish Government. The subject will, in due course, be submitted to the Council of this Association.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. LOWY, Secretary.

## No. 47.

*London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews to Foreign Office.—(Received August 24.)*

Sir,

36, Finsbury Circus, London, August 23, 1887.  
REFERRING to your letter of the 9th instant, addressed to Sir Julian Goldsmid (the President of the Anglo-Jewish Association), may I beg the favour of your

causing to be forwarded to me a copy of the printed despatch therein referred to from Her Majesty's Minister at Morocco, relating to the case of Reuben Tourgeman and other matters, for the use of this Board?

I am, &c.  
(Signed) LEWIS EMANUEL.  
(Per F. J. W., Solicitor and Secretary).

## No. 48.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 66.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1887.  
I APPROVE of the terms of the communication that you have addressed to the Moorish Government, as reported in your despatch No. 79 of the 10th instant, in reply to their Circular requiring the dismissal from the employ of all foreign residents, except officials, of the men who owe military service to the Government, and who are acting as guards under their present masters.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

## No. 49.

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1887.  
I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, enclosing a Report by Lieutenant Boulnois, R.A., on the present state of the Moorish military forces, and I am to request that, in laying this letter before Mr. Secretary Stanhope, you will inform him that his Lordship proposes, with Mr. Stanhope's concurrence, to instruct Sir W. Kirby Green to thank Mr. Boulnois for his interesting Report.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

## No. 50.

*Foreign Office to London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews.*

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 25, 1887.  
IN reply to your letter of the 23rd instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier relating to the case of Reuben Tourgeman and other matters.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

## No. 51.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton*

(No. 509.)

Foreign Office, August 26, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. J. G. Kennedy's No. 218: ante, No. 51.]

No. 52.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford \**

(No. 123. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August 26, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 63: ante, No. 29.]

No. 53.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.†*

(No. 124. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August 26, 1887.*  
[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's Nos. 72 and 74: ante, Nos. 33 and 35.]

No. 54.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.‡*

(No. 507. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August 26, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 73: ante, No. 34.]

No. 55.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford §*

(No. 126. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August 26, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 75: ante, No. 37.]

No. 56.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.¶*

(No. 127.) *Foreign Office, August 26, 1887.*  
[Transmits copy of Mr. Scott's No. 302: ante, No. 36.]

No. 57.

*London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews to Foreign Office.—(Received August 27.)*

Dear Sir, *36, Finsbury Circus, August 26, 1887.*  
I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, inclosing a copy of Sir W. Kirby Green's despatch No. 63 of the 12th ultimo, for which I thank you  
I am, &c.  
(Per F. J. W.),  
(Signed) LEWIS EMANUEL,  
*Solicitor and Secretary.*

\* Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 257, Confidential), Mr. E. Malet (No. 406, Confidential), and Mr. Egerton (No. 503, Confidential).  
† Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 258, Confidential), Mr. E. Malet (No. 409, Confidential), and Mr. Egerton (No. 505, Confidential).  
‡ Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 259, Confidential), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 123, Confidential).  
§ Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 260, Confidential), Mr. E. Malet (No. 410, Confidential), and Mr. Egerton (No. 508, Confidential).  
¶ Also to Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 261), Mr. Egerton (No. 504), and Sir W. K. Green (No. 56).

No. 58.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)*

(No. 82.) *Tangier, August 20, 1887.*  
My Lord,  
WITH reference to my despatch No. 74 of the 7th instant, I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that Señor Diosdado returned here this morning from his visit to the Sultan at Rabat.  
I have not yet had the advantage of seeing my Spanish colleague, but I hear that he expresses himself as much pleased with the reception met by him at the Moorish Court.  
Muhl Hassan continued his march on the 18th instant from Rabat for Mequinez, where His Majesty hopes to arrive in about ten days.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 59.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 29.)*

(No. 83. Confidential.) *Tangier, August 21, 1887.*  
My Lord,  
I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a note received by me yesterday from Cid Emfadel Gharneet, the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs.  
The note was conveyed from Rabat by Hadj Mohamed Torres, the Acting Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, who returned here by the iron-clad which brought back the Spanish Mission from the Moorish Court.  
It is the definitive answer promised in the first acknowledgment obtained from Cid Emfadel Gharneet of the collective note (see No. 62, Confidential of the 1th ultimo), and expresses the Sultan's desire that the Empire of Morocco should receive from the Great Powers who entertain political and commercial relations with the country a formal guarantee of its neutrality.  
I feel that I had better not comment on what at first sight appears to me to be a most serious turn given to the idea which governed the collective note until I have had an opportunity of meeting Señor Diosdado, and hearing from him the view his recent intercourse with the Sultan and his Ministers permits him to take of the matter.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 59.

*Cid Emfadel Gharneet to Sir W. K. Green.*

(Translation.) *25 Zul Kadde, 1304 (August 16, 1887).*  
(After the usual compliments.)  
WE have communicated to our Lord the Sultan your letter regarding the solicitude of your Government and others for the maintenance and integrity of the Empire of Morocco, and for the continuance of its independence, and informing us that this is the object of your strongest desire. Our Lord has commanded us to thank you for the strong proof which your esteemed Government has thus given of its true friendship, and also to inform you in answer, as we have done to the other Governments, that His Majesty's most ardent wish is for the preservation of friendship and the continuance of peace with all the Powers, as also the increase of commercial relations with them which will be productive of good both to his own subjects and those of the (Christian) nations, but that His Majesty requires (or desires) before all things that your Government communicate with the other Great Powers who entertain political and commercial relations with the Empire of Morocco, and obtain from them pledges and guarantees (in undertakings) for the maintenance of peace and of the integrity of the Empire of Morocco, on the footing of a State honoured by all, guaranteed, reckoned as an isolated State and neutral [sic], that is to say, friendly with



all States, eliminated from hostilities with any of them, and respected by all, so that none will do it any injury, nor will it do injury to any of them, for the respect of mutual rights is one of the duties of Governments to each other, and His Majesty desires that they (these Governments) appose their signatures and seals to this undertaking according to the custom which prevails in matters of the like importance. By command of His Majesty the Sultan we have answered the Spanish and Italian Ministers in the same sense.

Peace.

(Signed)

EMFADEL GHARNEET.

No. 60.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)*

(No. 84. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, August 22, 1897.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 88, Confidential, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I called on my Spanish colleague in the afternoon, and received the following account from him of the manner in which the Sultan had explained to him the reply which had now been given to the collective note of March last.

At the first private interview which Señor Diosdado had with Mulat Hassan, His Sherrefian Majesty told him that he found himself at present enabled, after having consulted men of experience in every part of his Empire, to give a definitive answer to the step which the Spanish, English, and Italian Governments had taken with the object of securing the integrity of the Maroccan Empire.

His Majesty said his counsellors had confirmed him in the view he had taken from the first of the proposal contained in the collective note. They were of opinion that it was a one-sided arrangement, binding the Sherrefian Government to the three Powers whilst leaving them free, not only depriving it of all freedom of action in its relations with France but, possibly, also furnishing the French Government with an excuse for departing from its present friendly attitude towards Morocco. Mulat Hassan asked Señor Diosdado what he had to answer to this view of the matter.

The Spanish Minister replied that he found His Majesty's reasoning unanswerable, for, he admitted to me, it was the view he had taken from the beginning of the collective note.

I expressed my regret that such was the case, for I should have hoped that he would have been able to point out to the Sultan that the maintenance of His Majesty's freedom of action in the matter of ceding portions of his territory could not be an advantage in face of His Majesty's admitted inability to successfully resist such cessions when demanded. In my opinion, the collective note, instead of being one-sided, was a most valuable instrument, marking the determination of the three Governments to use their best endeavours to prevent undue encroachments on Maroccan territory.

Señor Diosdado then told me that though, in the absence of instructions, he could give the Sultan no answer regarding the proposal for the establishment of the neutrality of Morocco, he promised, if an opportunity was afforded him on his approaching visit to Madrid, to warmly support His Sherrefian Majesty's idea.

I did not deem it expedient to discuss at any length with my Spanish colleague a matter which should be left by me quite free for your Lordship's decision. I therefore only said to Señor Diosdado that I thought the question was one of extreme gravity, and, before raising it, that it should be carefully looked at from every possible point.

After leaving the Spanish Minister I called on Signor Scovasso, who I knew had also received a copy of Cid Emfadel Gharneet's note.

My Italian colleague just at present is so imbued with the conviction that France will, sooner or later, be allowed by the Great Powers to have its own way in Morocco, that he sees no safety in any other course but that of accepting unquestioned whatever the Moorish Government may propose. He considers the Sultan the most competent judge of what is best for his own safety, and consequently is willing to applaud most of, if not all, His Majesty's resolutions.

Under these circumstances, I merely repeated to Signor Scovasso the opinion expressed by me to Señor Diosdado, that the proposal contained in the Moorish note required most careful and deliberate consideration.

But with regard to my Italian colleague's belief that a day will come when France will be allowed to incorporate Morocco with Algeria, and knowing that Signor Scovasso affects to be a secret counsellor of the Sultan, I thought it well, whilst I studiously marked the private and personal nature of my observation, to express the belief that his pessimist ideas were ill-founded.

I said that, though naturally Her Majesty's Government had no need of coming to a decision on a question which had not yet arisen, I was morally convinced, if ever the integrity of Morocco came to be seriously menaced, the matter would be treated as one of vital importance to British interests, and not as a side question capable of half-a-dozen solutions.

Your Lordship will perhaps now permit me to bring under your Lordship's notice, in a most confidential and secret manner, impressions which have been produced on my mind by the way in which the Sultan has acted on the subject of the collective note of March last.

I have been gradually brought to the belief that His Majesty's hesitation in accepting the note may not have been altogether spontaneous. I fear that as long as the Spanish Government was in uncertainty as to the extent of the territorial cessions obtained by M. Feraud at Morocco it was ready to oppose them in an energetic manner, but when the dangers receded under explanations given in Paris and by the French Minister here, then the Spanish Government perceived that the note was calculated to check not only French but also Spanish territorial acquisitions in Morocco—acquisitions looked for in some near or distant future, as is shown by the military surveys which are being conducted about Ceuta, Tetuan, the Riff, and southwards in the vicinity of Wad Draa.

It was thus that, when I was at the Moorish Court shortly after the reception by the Moorish Government of the collective note, I perceived myself to be very much in the position of a supporter of an affair which had already been discounted, and that when I returned to Tangier I found Señor Diosdado accepting as a foregone conclusion the Sultan's hesitation to follow the lead indicated by the note.

Señor Diosdado even before going to meet the Sultan at Rabat allowed me to see that he sympathized with His Majesty's hesitation, and immediately he and Mulat Hassan (he had only one business interview of an hour and a-quarter with His Majesty) met, the demand for the neutralization of Morocco was brought forward as the outcome of the united wisdom of the Sultan's counsellors.

Cid Emfadel Gharneet's note of the 16th instant bears inherent signs that the Sultan's Counsellors are not all Moors. The unexpected knowledge of political contrivances and arrangements abroad, and the use made of the word "neutral" are sufficient proofs of the European drafting of the note.

I should not be astonished to learn hereafter, my Lord, that it had been pre-arranged between Señor Diosdado and the Moorish Government that the matter of the collective note should remain in suspense until he should meet the Sultan, and that he carried with him to Rabat the proposal for securing the neutralization of Morocco by the Great Powers and Spain, which has not once been adhered to.

The neutralization of a country, as Señor Diosdado perhaps incautiously explained to me yesterday, in the present day does not stand for much. It is precisely for this reason that I am inclined to suspect the Spanish Government would prefer the neutralization of Morocco to the holding by Great Britain, Italy, and Spain, of a declaration from the Sultan that he would never cede a portion of Maroccan territory without first consulting thereon the Governments of those countries.

Señor Diosdado is also aware that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the best safeguard for Morocco is the improvement of its Government, and of the well-being of the people, and the development of its commercial intercourse with the exterior. He considers that the time for such progress has not arrived. The Spanish Government lays claim to what it terms its "legitimate rights" in Morocco. Supremacy of the Spanish element and complete control of the commercial and agricultural resources of the country are a part of these legitimate rights.

The Spanish Minister is well aware that if Morocco makes up and enters upon the path of progress his countrymen will fail to take a prominent part in the revival. He admits that Spaniards have, for a long time to come, plenty to occupy themselves with at home.

Señor Diosdado, therefore, is disposed to accord unquestioned the Sultan's demand for the neutralization of his country. It will afford a guarantee to Spain that nothing but moral pressure will be used for the future against the Sherrefian Government to endeavour to lead it into the paths of progress, and the certainty that, when once the

Sultan knows he need fear no active coercitive measures, the Moorish Government will obstinately stand still until the happy moment of Spain's capacity to receive the Maroccan heritage comes about.

If my surmises as to Spanish policy are wrong, they will dissolve before a suggestion that the Sherrefian Government, to obtain the neutralization of Morocco, must first enumerate the reforms it is prepared to initiate, and state the other guarantees it will give of accepting a valid control by the countries which may bind themselves separately and collectively to watch over the observance of the neutrality in question.

My Lord, without obtaining such assurances and security the Sultan and his Minister would interpret the country's neutralization to mean a happy deliverance from the present wholesome form of castigation for bad faith and other misdeeds, so that Morocco would quickly revert to a state of utter barbarism. The interested Powers, deprived of the leverage which with the Sherrefian Government is now occasionally lifted into doing its duty, would have to confine their benificent action to scolding, for there would be always one or two of them who would share Signor Scovasso's belief that the Sultan and his Ministers are the most competent judges of what suits Morocco best, and invoke the Neutralization Act as a shield even from moral pressure.

But should I prove mistaken, and it be ascertained that the Spanish Government concurs in the view that the neutralization of Morocco must be preceded by reform, then, I am sure, it will be found that the demand put forward in Cid Enfadet Gharneet's note is nothing but one of those frequently employed subterfuges of the Sherrefian Government of diverting attention by throwing out hopes which it has not the remotest intention of permitting to be realized.

Another point to be borne in mind besides the probable determination of the Sultan to maintain his barbarous, unjust, and antiquated administration, is the geographical extent of his country. The Sultan when attempting to define his frontiers with regard to the Cape Juby question, asserted that his Empire was bordered to the east by the Nile and Kordofan and to the south by Guinea. Pretensions of this nature are absurd, still, even within the admitted borders of Morocco there are populations which would render it almost impossible for them to be brought within the action of an engagement of neutralization.

The well-ordered inhabitants of Switzerland and Belgium offer tangible security that they will respect their privilege, but Mulat Hassan cannot answer for the well-doing of a single tribesman in his country, much less for that of the wild kahyles of the Rif and the Atlas, and the Arabs of the deserts skirting Algeria. To give these people the freedom implied by the proposed neutralization would be impossible, and what would be the advantage of the neutralization if France and Spain were to be reserved special rights?

I fear I am needlessly troubling your Lordship by recounting the difficulties in the way of the realization of the proposal in the Moorish note of the 16th instant, for they all appear to me self-evident.

However, before concluding, I trust your Lordship will allow me to point out the extreme danger that might arise from even a preliminary discussion of the question by the interested European Cabinets. If it led to nothing else it would clearly mark the disagreement that probably exists on Moorish affairs in such a manner as to possibly lead France or some other Power to see that the danger of pursuing a particular policy in this country is not so great as had been feared.

I would further crave your Lordship's indulgence if, by the foregoing explanations, I have not altogether failed to establish the very inopportune nature of Cid Enfadet Gharneet's proposal to submit for your Lordship's consideration the draft of the reply which I would humbly suggest to your Lordship I might be authorized to address to his Excellency in acknowledgment of the receipt of the note.

In drawing up the draft I have kept in mind the probability that the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to enter into an engagement which it is asserted would render Morocco safe, would be represented by some of the foreign Governments to the Sultan and his Ministers as proof that England has ulterior views on this country, and I have therefore laid particular stress on the confidence of Her Majesty's Government in the power of Great Britain to protect interests which it deems its own.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 60.

*Draft of proposed Acknowledgment to be addressed to Cid Enfadet Gharneet of his Excellency's Note of August 16, 1887.*

Tangier, August 18, 1887.

(After compliments.)

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of the communication which your Excellency did me the honour of addressing me on the 16th instant by His Sherrefian Majesty's direction, with reference to the collective note which the Representatives of Spain and Italy, together with myself, had written to your Excellency on the March last on the subject of the engagement which our respective Governments were of opinion the Sultan would do well to enter upon for the purpose of adding security to the existing limits and boundaries of the Maroccan Empire.

I regret that His Sherrefian Majesty should have directed your Excellency to bring forward the proposal contained in your note without having first consulted me in a confidential manner thereon, for the step now taken by the Moorish Government is a most serious one. It may place the country in immediate danger through bringing to light the divergencies of view that may exist among different Governments regarding it, or through the engagements that some of them might call upon the Sultan to take in view of his desire to cover his responsibility by the process of the neutralization of Morocco.

The causes that had Great Britain and Morocco together are self-evident and have existed for ages. Her Majesty's Government therefore hold the conviction that they and the Sultan will always be found on the same side whenever questions arise affecting the vital interests of the two countries. Much of the security hitherto enjoyed by Morocco has depended on the public knowledge held of the friendship of Great Britain for it, and this security cannot be strengthened by fruitless attempts to obtain a Treaty of Neutralization.

Though it has not been solicited, allow me to here offer, through your Excellency, to His Sherrefian Majesty the advice to well study his own interests and those of his country by reverting to the policy of his predecessors, which was one of close friendship with Great Britain and of complete confidence not only in their ally's strength, but also in his guidance to keep them in a course leading to prolonged peace and prosperity.

Peace.

No. 61.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)*

(No. 85)

Tangier, August 22, 1887.

My Lord,

I YESTERDAY had the honour of replying to your Lordship's telegraphic inquiries concerning the detention of natives in the Moorish prisons at the instance of British claimants that, since my arrival in this country, I had not called upon the Sherrefian Government to imprison any one for the recovery of a debt due to a British subject.

As, however, there are numbers of claims which had been examined into by a Commission, in my predecessor's time, and found valid, it is quite possible that the Maroccan authorities in the interior and at the coast are keeping in detention men whom they consider capable of satisfying the claims on them.

Having ascertained during my recent journey to and from the city of Morocco that there were, here and there, provincial Kads and other men in authority who were apparently availing themselves of the Commission's cognizance of the British subjects' claims to detain certain well-to-do Moors who had already come to settlements with their creditors, I called upon the Moorish Government to issue a General Order to the provincial authorities to warn them against making a cover of British claims for extorting money on their own account.

At Sallee hearing that there were two Moors who had been detained for some considerable time for debts that it was notorious they were not in a position to pay, I induced the Governor, on consenting to accept the responsibility of the act, to order their immediate release.

I must further add, that the Administration of the country is carried on so loosely that it is quite within the power of unscrupulous British subjects to obtain, in a direct

manner, without even the knowledge of the Consular Officers, the co-operation of Moorish authorities in enforcing claims of a questionable origin, on natives.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 62.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)*

(No. 60. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, August 22, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 72, Confidential, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Señor Diosdado also told me yesterday, whilst I was calling on him, that he had spoken to the Sultan on the subject of obtaining a revision of the Madrid Convention of 1880.

His Majesty promised to take into consideration the Spanish Minister's suggestion that the Moorish Government should be the first to move in the matter, by calling upon the Spanish Government to take the necessary steps for reassembling the Conference at Madrid.

Mulal Hassan, Señor Diosdado said, evidently felt somewhat nervous as to the effect that might be produced thereby on the French Government, though Señor Diosdado explained to him how the position was altered since 1880, most Governments being now convinced that protection of natives as at present practised in Morocco was an abuse which must be put an end to.

The Spanish Minister assured His Moroccan Majesty that at the projected Conference the Spanish Government would be found ready to go one step further than any other Government towards the entire abolition of protection of natives.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 63.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)*

(No. 67.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, August 22, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I also learnt from Señor Diosdado yesterday that the Sultan has determined upon erecting fortifications in all the passes of the Atlas range which lead to Algeria.

My Spanish colleague mentioned this to me as a proof of Mulal Hassan's whole-some fear of the French, and determination to put obstacles in the way of their progress westwards.

In native circles it has been rumoured, ever since M. Féraud's visit to the Moorish Court last autumn, that the Sultan had entered into an engagement with the French Minister to proceed himself to the Algerian frontier, near Ouchda, and there build a common market-place for the inhabitants on either side of the frontier, as well as a block-house for some Moorish troops.

In any case, the Sultan's ideas of military precautions are peculiar to this country. He has lately caused most of the powder magazines of the forts around the coast towns to be replenished, and the walls of the forts themselves to be whitewashed.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 64.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)*

(No. 68.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, August 24, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Spanish Minister, who has just returned from seeing the Sultan, left this morning, in the iron-clad "Navarra," for Cadiz, on his way to Madrid.

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Señor Diosdado, I understand, will also go to Paris, thus following very much the same course as was observed by him in 1880, under the orders of his Government, when the Madrid Conference was about to be convoked.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 65.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received August 31.)*

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

*Tunis, August 25, 1887.*

THE General commanding the brigade of occupation in Tunis left recently for France, for the purpose, it is said, of carrying through a project for defining the boundary-line between the Regency and Tripoli. The maritime boundary will be Zarzis, whence a line running westward across a country almost without settled inhabitants will be occupied by a few fortified posts, situated chiefly amongst the Werghemma Arabs. The General visited this region in the spring, and fixed on the places to be occupied. If the plan receives the sanction of the French Government the transfer of the military quarters from Gabes to Zarzis will be effected in October. It would appear that the delimitation will be made without consultation with the Turkish authorities of Tripoli.

The above information I derive from Mr Galos, our Vice-Consul in Suse, who, from his habit of moving about the country for business purposes, has the means of obtaining a good deal of information.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 66.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 67.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, August 31, 1887.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 20th and to your reply of the 21st instant, I have to request you, considering the former abuses in connection with imprisonment for debt in Morocco, to move the Moorish Government to issue orders for the discontinuance of the practice of imprisoning individuals on the application of British creditors, unsupported by Her Majesty's Minister or Consul.

It is presumed that the British creditors address themselves not to the Government but to the native police authorities, who are probably bribed, but the Moorish Government itself ought not to act on the application of British creditors except through their Tribunals, for it is reported that debtors are imprisoned without trial.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 67.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 1.)*

(No. 69. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, August 24, 1887.*

I BEG to draw your Lordship's attention, as being somewhat in confirmation of my belief expressed in despatch No. 84, Secret and Confidential, of the 22nd instant, that the Spanish Government has views of obtaining territorial acquisitions in Morocco, to a report which has appeared in the Madrid "Epoca" of the 19th instant, republished as follows in the "Gibraltar Chronicle" of the 20th:—

"It is there stated that Messrs. Garcia, Ponce, and Cases have left Madrid for Ceuta to arrange affairs regarding that place, for which they had come to the capital. The most complete success has crowned their efforts. The Government will consent to what has been asked—to convert Ceuta into a military colony, as well as a penitentiary. A Captain-Generalship will be established, a Bishopric, a Government Delegation, the works of the fortification will be carried on, and, in fact, other reforms which opinion

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might give rise to. Eventually, Father Lerchundi would be elected to the See of Ceuta.

I have also learnt that the Spanish Staff-Colonel, who has been for a number of years past engaged in surveying the country, not only around Ceuta and Tetuan but even beyond Alcazar and Larache, and so far as Rabat, has now been appointed principal Staff Officer at Ceuta.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 68.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 3.)

(No. 90.)

My Lord,

Tangier, August 24, 1887.

WHEN Mr. Alec Ferguson, Secretary of the North-West African Company, was starting during the early spring on a journey of investigation into the commercial resources of Morocco, I suggested to him the usefulness of keeping in mind for observation, through his travels, the question of the foreign protection of natives, as connected with the interests of British merchants trading direct with this country and the Moors.

Mr. Ferguson is not only employed with the above-named Company, but also belongs to a most important London and Manchester manufacturing firm, and is therefore a most competent person for forming an opinion, from a merchant's point of view, on the question suggested to him by me. I am, consequently, most grateful to him for having furnished me with the lengthy Report thereon, of which the inclosed is a copy.

Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Ferguson is in favour of very great modifications being introduced in the protecting action of foreign commercial intercourse with natives, especially in the direction of securing the Sultan's sovereign rights over the said natives, but he, too, considers that the whole question requires careful settlement, and before all, the adoption by the Sherrefian authorities of more regular and defined ways of government, so that the capital and trading transactions of the foreign merchants should not be subjected, as it would be at present, to arbitrary and rapacious proceedings on the part of the native Administration.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

Inclosure in No. 68.

Mr. A. Ferguson to Sir W. Kirby Green.

Sir,  
YOU were good enough to ask me my opinion as to the advantage to our country of the continuance of the system of protections at present in operation in the Empire of Morocco.

I have considered the question as well as I was able and have come to the conclusion that the present system is without any such advantage to our national interests as will balance the disadvantages it undoubtedly engenders, but at the same time, it is not so much the use as the constant abuse of the protection clauses in the Treaties we have to deplore. The difficulty, however, will always be to make such doubtful privileges clearly understood to the officials administering justice in a country such as Morocco, where the real significance of Treaty language is altogether misunderstood by the men appointed by the Sultan, who are quite untaught in the matter of their duties and responsibilities to Christian States. The difficulty of ensuring among even European Consuls, Consular Agents and merchants, conscientious fulfilment of the spirit and letter of the Treaty will always cause the Moorish Government to suspect the sincerity of any Government upholding those clauses which remove from the Sultan the sovereign rights of compelling his natural subjects to support the Government of the country by the payment of the regularly imposed taxes. My experience in Morocco forces me to confess that too often Europeans settled there, looked on the Moor as the foreigner in the country instead of themselves, evidently

forgetting that the only way to make their own position comfortable, is to prove by their acts the benefits their residence there confers on the country and its Government. At the present moment I am led to believe that the greatest stumbling block in the way of a more favourable Treaty, is the insistence of some of the Powers in the retention of these "Protection" clauses. That they benefit in a monetary sense the officials of such countries as sell protections is undeniable, but I do not think they benefit the countries themselves, as they block the way to employment in Morocco of natural born subjects of the countries so granting protection, and no guarantee is obtained that the protection so granted will be used to increase the trade of the country granting such protection or naturalization.

This is the greatest argument I have heard in favour of the continuance of the system, and I am sure, from observation, it is based in actual operation on mere fancy; for example, the countries most lavish in granting such protections are exactly lavish in inverse ratio to their commercial intercourse with Morocco, with one notable exception, such exception being clearly traceable to political reasons.

The chief recipients of protections are the Jews. Not many of them have become naturalized by residence or legitimate means into the protection they themselves possess, but have obtained it by cash payments or other more objectionable means from Minister, Consul, or Consular Agents at Tangier or on the coast. These men, knowing that their annual payment for keeping protections running is worth much to the Consular Agents or employes who have granted them, do, under the shelter of such Agents or employes, traffic in subsidiary protections to such as will pay for the privilege, in direct contravention of the Treaty.

Under such protections false and fraudulent claims have been of frequent occurrence, and, I regret to have to say it, these have not been in some instances unchargeable to our own countrymen so-called. In addition, freedom from Imperial taxation has been claimed in all cases by the holders of these protections, this latter being the sorest grievance in the mind of the Moorish Government; and let us consider if, in any one of the countries granting such Consular protections, such freedom from the customary taxation, in opposition to the natural born subjects, would be permitted except to the regular servants of a friendly Power having diplomatic relations therewith.

Personally, I consider that the abolition of protections would have the following effects:—

1. The more extended employment of Europeans in the trade of Morocco.
2. And, as a consequence, a more perfect knowledge of the resources and requirements of the country.
3. And, therefore, a larger sale of British manufactured goods specially produced for this market, carrying with the opportunity for employment of British capital and labour.
4. The purification of the commercial atmosphere of Morocco.
5. Cause increased confidence between Moors and Europeans, and lead to the eventual opening up of the country by scientific means.
6. And, finally, prove to the Sultan that the Treaty Powers were in earnest in their professions of friendship, and my reasons for these conclusions are—

(1.) This protection enables the natives to control the market by their acquiescence with the people and their ways, also, it gives the Jewish usurer an opportunity to force illegal claims based on excessive and usurious interests charged for on him which would disgrace any civilized merchant, but so crush the Moor as to keep him for the future entirely in the power and at the mercy of his persecutor. These men, by the aid of this protection, trade on peculiar lines, which has enabled them to close the way to legitimate opposition in trading. During my recent sojourn in Morocco I had occasion to visit all of the principal trading centres in the Empire, and the first point that struck me was that nearly all the trade was in the hands of protected Jews, scarcely one of whom were born in the country whose protection they claimed, and hardly any doing important business with their adopted country. These men seemed quite omnipotent, indeed, one of their number defied any Englishman to succeed in opposition to them. At the same time, there was an almost entire absence of really genuine representatives of British houses, educated to their business as manufacturers of the articles in which they traded. As such men can alone know to the capabilities of their firms, or have a single eye to the propagation of British trade, this state of things is regrettable. Further, such merchants, having only a desire to profit by sales, as against by producing, are careless from what country they draw their supplies. They therefore import the lowest goods they can find, irrespective of quality, too often



endeavouring to pass them off as genuine British made goods, which have in the interior markets a most excellent reputation, being preferred to those of any other country. Were protection withdrawn, these men could not exist, and a great field would open itself for the employment of our own countrymen.

2. England is essentially a country of originality in the conception of new designs and articles of manufacturing. Germany's principal business is as a copyist at reduced prices of the production of original genius. The employment of Englishmen would obviate the sending of English patterns to Germany to be copied until the first run of trade had been secured, when, in consequence of first cost having been covered in the earlier sales, England could favourably compete with her imitator in most cases. Besides, the wants of the country would be better understood by this direct intercourse.

3. These several things would enable British merchants to do a larger trade with the country by reproducing, by the aid of machinery, the hand work of the Moors, and consequently encouraging our manufacturing interests at home.

4. I have said the abolition of protection would purify the commercial atmosphere. To explain this it is necessary to recite one leading feature of Morocco trading. Many of these protected Jews buy from or through confederates in London, Manchester, Marseilles, Hamburg, &c. These middle-men are generally what are termed "duffers," that is, converses to enable the Jews to obtain credits of six or nine months, most bills on Morocco being difficult of negotiation. The goods so bought on credit are immediately sold, often, indeed, generally, under cost, to prevent legitimate trading, and to secure immediate cash. By this means the stock—the creditor's security—disappears at once, and the trader has funds for about five months to lend out at interest. Here comes the use of protection. Usury is prohibited in Morocco, but this trader lends, say, 100 dollars and draws out a promissory note for 150 dollars, and uses his friend the granter of the protection to insist on its repayment. These bills are often fraudulently altered by the Thalebs\* for money, and the poor debtor may find his bill for 100 dollars altered by the addition of *بن* "in" to twice the amount. The value of this alteration shared amongst the parties in power insures its speedy collection. This makes up for the loss on the first ready money sale. Should the debtor not pay, the trader fails, and the supplier suffers. The loss of protection, and a system of registering such promissory notes officially, would greatly clear the way to a legitimate and profitable trade.

5. By doing away with these grievances, which, naturally, irritate the Moors, and bringing European and Moorish merchants into closer and more intimate relations, it will cause increased confidence in each other, and the feeling of distrust of anything foreign present in the Moorish mind will gradually be overcome, and admit of the advancement of civilization and the opening up of the country by railways, &c.

6. At the present time the Sultan only sees the Treaty Powers insisting with dogged perseverance in maintaining a system which deprives him of control over many of his own subjects. One Consul, I was informed, in Morocco city, protected 400 Jews and Moors in this way, not a dozen of whom were entitled to the protection from taxation.

Whenever a man becomes rich, and the incidence of taxation is correspondingly heavy, he resorts to a Consular Agent and buys a protection, so becoming free from taxation and a standing menace to the Government.

All of these reasons induce me to believe that the retention of the system is injurious to our national interests as a manufacturing State as such; and to us as a trading, &c., civilization-spreading community, by preventing the conclusion of an enlightened Treaty, in this way shutting up vast stores of the world's wealth, hidden in the mountains of the interior, apart from the question of grain supply, which is of great importance to us in the event of war.

In the preceding paragraphs I have only dealt with the disadvantages of protection, though, in an altered form, its advantages would be very important.

In a country like Morocco, where no security can be obtained that a man possessed of wealth to-day is not to-morrow ordered to appear before the Sultan and disgorge his entire means, the employment of any Moor, in matters entailing the holding of an European's property on trust or credit, is quite unsafe if no system of protection existed. Such security to European employers is an absolute necessity in transacting business in this country. But the system should be such as not to remove the object of it from the payment of his just share towards the support of the State.

\* Notary public.

in which he earns his livelihood, nor from the jurisdiction of his natural Sovereign. It appears to me that provisions carefully drawn out securing the following concessions would be possible of attainment, and ample security would be given the Sultan of his sovereign rights of control. No limit to the number of commercial agents, but not more than one in the province of any single Kaid. That the names of such agents shall be registered in the Office of the Consulate of State to which the principal shall belong, such registration to be advised to the Kaid of the province under Consular seal.

Employment under such registration shall not exempt from taxation, but shall from confiscation, except by arrangement with the Consul on proper cause being shown. This applies to resident agents in the interior only; for others I suggest the following:—

Europeans, when desirous of employing a native in the interior to buy or sell for him, shall have his name registered by the Consulate of his country at Tangier, and a notification of such registration shall be sent to the Basha or Kaid. To enable the business to be properly carried out, the Courts of the Bashes or Kaid can be used as a sort of passport offices, and amount handed to natives for trading purposes be duly entered. As an example: suppose A to be a merchant, B a Moorish employé or agent; A employs B to carry a caravan of goods to a given point, barter and exchange for produce or cash and return with the proceeds to a certain port of shipment. It is suggested that the amount of money or statement of goods entrusted to B be duly registered before Basha or Kaid, as well as with the Consular Court, A to receive for B a passport directing free passage for the agent to his destination and back. While holding this pass he shall be free from arrest, and have the full privileges of protection, except that he shall at all times be subject to the usual charges made by the Sultan on his subjects, but such charges shall not be recoverable while on a mission for an European merchant, and holding trust funds or goods. These goods, by a payment for these passes, shall be secured by the Government against theft or capture. Passes shall only be claimed where the Sultan has authority to enforce his rule. The pass will only cover the property indorsed on its face, and not the person of the agent, except when actively employed on a mission.

When banking operations are in force, it would be advantageous for sums of money to be remitted through their Agency, and a Sherifian Decree issued guaranteeing deposits in bank absolutely free from seizure.

This simple system insures that the trader's property and agent shall be respected while engaged in business, but does not prevent the Sultan recovering his share of taxation from such agent. While by the system of registration each Kaid would demand the Consular passport from any applicant for his intervention. By the last Kaid countersigning the passport security would be given against keeping these in force beyond the reasonable time required for the journey. If all travellers required such passports there would be little need for the regular soldier, and the travelling through the country would be made much safer generally. Before finishing I may be allowed to mention another thing that sadly wants attention if any permanent commercial benefit is to accrue to Morocco.

It would be of immense advantage if a fixed maximum rate of interest were established for advances against property, as such advances are often necessary in Morocco, to bring to market the produce of the country. This would benefit the Moorish Government by preventing the spoliation of its subjects by unscrupulous money-lenders, who, to secure the necessary means, have sacrificed at below cost the goods imported by them.

It would be most desirable that all promissory notes should be registered, detailing sum of money or goods, advanced rate of interest and security held. All payments on account to be indorsed on bill, so securing that advantage, shall not be taken, as at present, over the honest debtor. Renewals should only be granted and registered at official rate of interest or under.

If, in addition to this, the property of a debtor could not be confiscated by the Sultan, or conveyed away by the debtor without payment of the registered bills, a sort of security would be effected for legitimate credit business, and, consequently, an enormous increase in the bulk of trade. The other great need is that a foreigner shall be at liberty to confiscate the property of a debtor who declines to pay his bills, instead of forcing the man into prison, which is not always effectual. There is nothing in these suggestions to make them repellent to any honest trader, but they would make the ways of usurers, calling themselves merchants, more hard, and so open to free competition, unassociated with unworthy acts, a fair field for the advancement of trade.

I do not know if my ideas will find favour in your eyes, but they are my present conclusions, any suggestions of yours I will only be too happy to know, that my commercial friends here may consider them and give you any assistance they can in their way.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) ALEC FERGUSON.

No. 69.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.*

(No. 525.)  
Sir,

Foreign Office, September 3, 1887.  
WITH reference to Viscount Lyons' despatch No. 105 of the 9th April, 1886, relating to the claim of Messrs. Scielina and Tajar, for alleged losses at Gabes, on its occupation by French troops in 1881, I transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis, and I have to request you to ascertain what steps the French Government are taking in the matter.\*

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 70.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.†*

(No. 419. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, September 3, 1887.

[Transmits copy of No. 63 to Sir W. K. Green: ante, No. 44.]

No. 71

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.‡*

(No. 420.)

Foreign Office, September 3, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's No. 70, and No. 63 to ditto ante, Nos. 41 and 45.]

No. 72.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green*

(No. 428. Confidential)  
Sir,

Foreign Office, September 7, 1887.  
I HAVE read with attention your despatches Nos. 83 and 84 of the 16th and 17th instant respectively, with their inclosures, relative to the desire expressed by the Sultan of Morocco that the Moorish Empire should receive a formal guarantee of its neutrality from the Great Powers upon political and commercial relations with the country.

Her Majesty's Government view generally in the sense of the reply which you propose to return to the Sultan of Morocco of the 16th instant, and of which a draft accompanies your despatch No. 84, but does not appear to them desirable that any further exchange of notes should take place upon this subject at the present juncture. You are authorized, however, to avail yourself of the next occasion on which you may meet the Moorish Foreign Secretary to speak to his Excellency in the sense of your proposed note, pointing out that European Powers would only neutralize a Power which by the excellence of its internal Constitution is incapable of giving offence, and asking what improvements in the Constitution of Morocco His Serene Highness contemplates as a preliminary to the demand for neutralization.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

\* No. 43.

† Also to Sir Clare Ford (No. 122, Confidential), Mr. Egerton (No. 527, Confidential), and Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 226 Confidential).

‡ Also to Sir Clare Ford (No. 130), Mr. Egerton (No. 523), and Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 237).

No. 73.

*Count Hatzfeldt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 12.)*

(Translation.)

My Lord,

German Embassy, September 9, 1887.

IN the Parliamentary Paper "Tunis No. 1 (1884)" there exists a note of Lord Granville to M. Waddington, marked No. 30, in which, on abolishing the British Consular jurisdiction in Tunis, the reservation was made that "the immediate settlement by arbitration or otherwise of outstanding claims of British subjects in Tunis" should be undertaken. According to M. Waddington's answer of the 20th December, 1893, printed in the same paper under No. 34, the French Government accepted this reservation, but confining its operation to "contestations mobilières entre le Gouvernement Tunisien et des sujets ou protégés Anglais," and specially excluding the matters already settled by the international arrangement of 1870, and by the decisions of the Finance Commissions instituted at various times by France, Great Britain, and Italy.

The Imperial Government would be interested to know if, according to the interpretation of Her Majesty's Government, the above reservation refers only to such claims as were raised by British subjects (or persons under British protection) at the time of the abolition of the Consular jurisdiction, and were already pending in a Court of Law, or whether also such claims are comprised which were acquired or sued afterwards by British subjects.

I should be much obliged to your Lordship for information on this point

I have, &c.  
(Signed) v. HATZFELDT.

No. 74.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 13.)*

(No. 7.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 5, 1887.

IN the last number of the Tunis official journal appeared a Decree of the President of the French Republic regulating the conditions by which French naturalization may be acquired by foreigners established in Tunis and by Tunisian subjects. The Decree in question was promulgated on a Report on the subject made by the Garde des Sceaux, Minister of Justice.

The Decree, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, requires that a Tunisian subject shall have served the Republic in a military or civil capacity before obtaining the rights of citizenship, but a foreigner may be admitted to those rights by the simple act of a three years' residence in Tunis, or in France, Algeria, and Tunis.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 74

*Extract from the "Journal Officiel Tunisien" of September 1, 1887.*

*Rapport au Président de la République Française*

M. le Président.

LES autorités Françaises en Tunisie ont, à plusieurs reprises, appelé l'attention du Gouvernement sur l'avantage qu'offrirait la naturalisation des étrangers établis dans le pays.

Le Département de la Justice est d'accord avec le Département des Affaires Étrangères sur l'utilité d'un Décret qui permettrait d'admettre à la jouissance des droits de citoyen Français les étrangers fixés en Tunisie, dont l'honorabilité et la sympathie pour nos institutions seraient démontrées.

Il a paru que cette mesure pourrait être étendue, à titre exceptionnel, à ceux des sujets du Bey qui rempliraient des conditions spéciales et auraient rendu des services à la France.

Tel est le but du Décret que, de concert avec M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à votre signature.

Je vous prie, &c.  
Le Ministre de l'Intérieur, chargé de l'intérim du  
Ministère de la Justice,  
(Signé) A. PALLIÈRES.  
Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères,  
(Signé) FLOURENS.

Décret du 29 Juillet, 1887

Le Président de la République Française,  
Sur le rapport du Garde des Sceaux, Ministre de la Justice.

Décète.

Article 1<sup>er</sup>.—Peuvent, après l'âge de 21 ans accomplis, être admis à jouir des droits de citoyen Français :

(1.) L'étranger qui justifie de trois années de résidence, soit en Tunisie, soit en France ou en Algérie et, en dernier lieu, en Tunisie.

(2.) Le sujet Tunisien qui, pendant le même temps, aura servi dans les armées Françaises de terre ou de mer ou qui aura rempli des fonctions ou emplois civils rétribués par le Trésor Français.

Art. 2. Le délai de trois ans est réduit à une seule année en faveur des individus mentionnés en l'Article précédent qui auraient rendu à la France des services exceptionnels.

Art. 3. Pourront également être admis à jouir des droits de citoyen Français les sujets Tunisiens qui, sans avoir servi dans les armées Françaises de terre ou de mer ou rempli des fonctions ou emplois civils rétribués par le Trésor Français, auront rendu à la France des services exceptionnels.

Art. 4. La demande en naturalisation est présentée au Contrôleur Civil dans l'arrondissement duquel l'impétrant a fixé sa résidence.

Le Contrôleur Civil procède d'office à une enquête sur les antécédents et la moralité du demandeur.

Si le demandeur est sous les drapeaux, la demande est adressée au chef de corps, qui la transmet au Général Commandant Supérieur, chargé de diriger l'enquête et d'émettre son avis.

Dans chaque affaire, le résultat de l'enquête, avec la demande et les pièces à l'appui, sont envoyés au Résident-Général, qui transmet le dossier, avec son avis motivé, au Ministre des Affaires Étrangères.

Art. 5. Il est statué par un Décret du Président de la République Française, le Conseil d'État entendu, sur la proposition collective du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et du Garde des Sceaux, Ministre de la Justice.

Art. 6. Aucun droit de sceau ne sera perçu pour la naturalisation des individus attachés au service de la France.

Pour les autres, le droit est fixé à 50 fr.

La perception de ce droit sera faite au profit du Protectorat.

Art. 7. Le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et le Garde des Sceaux, Ministre de la Justice, sont chargés, chacun en ce qui le concerne, de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Fait à Mont-sous-Vaudrey, le 29 Juillet, 1887.

(Signé) JULES GRÉVY.

No. 76.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 8.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 7, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report the departure, on the 5th instant, of the French Minister Resident on a two months' leave of absence. M. Massicault embarked on board the gun-boat "d'Estrees," proceeding first to Bonn, Philipville, and Algiers, whence he would continue his voyage to France.

During his eight months' residence in Tunis the Minister has been solicitous to give satisfaction to Tunisians by procuring for them certain privileges and advantages calculated to resuscitate the languishing condition of commerce. The creation of a port at Tun s seems to be definitely decided on, and it is evidently expected that the works will commence in November.

The free admission into France of Tunisian produce, a privilege for the obtaining of which great efforts have been made, is as far from accomplishment as ever. It is said that the French Government is unwilling to grant this favour without a corresponding advantage for French products, and there is a talk of preparing a Treaty of Commerce between France and Tunis, by which the duties on French manufactures should be considerably reduced, in consideration of the abolition of the import duties in French ports. It is contended that France occupies in Tunis a privileged position relatively to other Powers, which it is hoped would acquiesce in her pretension to make a separate Treaty. As British imports consist for the most part of cotton goods, with which the manufacturers of Northern France could not hope to enter into competition, however low the duties were reduced, our interests would not seem to be injured by a Treaty, if such be really contemplated. It is otherwise, however, with Italy and Germany, whose commercial rivalry with France, particularly in hardware and silks, is too close not to be affected by a lowering of duties in favour of the latter country.

The foreign population also entertain the hope that the steps already taken for extending the competency of the French Tribunal to suits regarding real property between themselves and natives may have a favourable issue, and that Tunis may be endowed with a Court of Appeal. There seems reason to believe that these boons, which would be welcomed by many Tunisians no less than by foreigners, may be accorded.

The commercial community have also agitated in favour of the creation of a national bank in Tunis, which shall have the privilege of issuing notes. Such an institution should have the effect of reducing the present high rates of interest which so hamper commerce.

Such are some of the measures which it is understood M. Massicault has recommended to Ministers, and which it is hoped he may more effectually urge on their attention by a visit to Paris.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 76.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 14.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 8, 1887.

IN a telegram from the "Times" correspondent in Paris, dated the 30th ultimo, it is stated that the German Consul in this city, on the occasion of the celebration of the Festival of Bairam, "congratulated the Bey on the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people in all respects."

My German colleague assures me that he merely uttered the usual compliments expressed on such occasions, and that his words differed little from those he has always used at the festival of Bairam.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 15.)

(No. 93 Confidential)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 5, 1887

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 63, Confidential, of the 22nd ultimo, with your Lordship's instructions on the question of the reconsideration of the Treaty stipulations concerning the foreign protection of Moorish subjects, and to reply that Herr von Saldern has informed me that he is prepared in this matter to concur in whatever proposals I may bring forward, as, from the discussions which have already passed between us, he knows that he and I are in perfect accord on the necessity of obtaining, through the modification of existing rights, certain commercial facilities from the Sultan.

Señor Diosdado and Signor Scovasso being both away on short leaves of absence, I have thought it expedient to await their return, and not to confer with the Spanish and Italian Chargés d'Affaires on a question which they would probably consider beyond their competence.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 79.

Signor Crispi to M. Catalani.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Catalani, September 16.)

(Translation.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Rome, September 7, 1887

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of a Report from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, and of a despatch addressed by me to Commendatore Scovasso, respecting the request made by the Sultan of Morocco that the three Powers should take the initiative with the other Governments with a view of guaranteeing by Treaty the integrity and independence of Morocco, and of recognizing that Empire as a neutral State.

I have to request you to ascertain the opinion in this matter of the Government in which you are accredited. As far as we are concerned, we are not averse from assisting in anything which may help in maintaining the *status quo* in Morocco, as in every other North African region on the Mediterranean. Such was, indeed, the object of the request made to the Government of Morocco in the note of March 1887, to which the Government in question has now returned an evasive answer. The idea now put forward by the Government of Morocco of the Powers guaranteeing its territorial integrity and neutrality must be very carefully considered. It would evidently involve certain obligations, and to a certain extent would make these obligations depend on the more or less prudent bearing which Morocco might be able to maintain towards France.

In any case, we are most desirous of obtaining the opinions held with regard to this proposal by the Governments most directly interested, i.e., Spain and England.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) P. CRISPI.

M. Scovasso to M. Crispi.

(Translation.)

(Confidential.)

M. le Ministre,

Tangier, August 23, 1887

WITH reference to my Report of the 31st July last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Spanish Minister, Señor Diosdado, has returned from the mission to His Majesty the Sultan at Rabat, and has brought back the answer of the Sherrefian Government to the identic notes addressed to it in March last, under instructions from their respective Governments, by the Ministers of Italy, Great Britain, and Spain.

I inclose a translation of the document in question.

The Government of Morocco passes over the undertaking which the three Governments wished the Sultan to give, namely, not to agree with France for any further cession of territory without first seeking the advice of the three friendly Powers.

On the declaration in the identic notes that the territorial independence and integrity of the Empire of Morocco are objects of great solicitude to the three Governments, the Sherrefian Government bases a request that the Governments in question may take the initiative with the other States in order that the integrity and independence of Morocco may be guaranteed by Treaty, and that the Empire may be recognized as a neutral State.

This is no doubt a very clever move on the part of the Sherrefian Government, threatened on one side with a French Protectorate, which it understands is the ultimate aim kept in view in Algeria, however peaceful the policy of the moment may appear, encouraged on the other by Italy, Great Britain, and Spain to resist, and aware that it is unable to make way alone against French ambition, it turns to the States interested in maintaining the *status quo* asking them not to abandon it in the crisis threatening it.

This is the real meaning of the Sherrefian note, which has evidently been written in order to ascertain what support Morocco may hope for from the States professing friendship towards it before giving them any undertaking or assuming a more resolute attitude with France.

The idea of erecting a neutral State on the African shore of the Straits should, it appears to me, be acceptable to such Mediterranean States as have no ambitious designs on Morocco; and the initiative to be taken by the three States in accordance with the Sultan's request would at least have the advantage of showing clearly what are the intentions of the French Government.

I am well aware that in so grave a matter the decision of His Majesty's Government must above all be in harmony with their general policy, but I would venture to add that if the three Powers really purpose the *status quo* to be maintained in this country, the time has come when the usual protestations of friendship and interest till now lavished on the Moorish Government are not enough. As I have repeatedly reported to your Excellency, France never ceases from her efforts, which must sooner or later lead to a Protectorate. It is, moreover, useless to hide from oneself the fact that the diplomatic pressure of France, which can at any moment be accompanied by a display of force on the frontier will always have more power over the Sultan than the advice of the three friendly Powers so long as these offer him nothing beyond moral support. Circumstances would be entirely changed were it known that the Powers interested in maintaining the *status quo* would consider a violation of it as a *casus belli*. And here, I must repeat, is the very point on which the Moorish question centres.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) SCOVASSO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 79.

Mohamed Garnit to M. Scovasso.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

25 Dul Kaada, 1304 (August 15, 1887).

WE have laid before our Master (whom God exalt) your note, in which you tell us that the territorial integrity of Morocco, the preservation of the *status quo*, and the maintenance of her independence and political liberty are the objects of the solicitude



of your Government and of other Governments, and that your Government is willing to take steps with that object.

His Majesty has ordered me to offer you his thanks for this declaration, which is the best proof of the sincere friendship of your Government.

His Majesty has further ordered me to say, in reply to you and to the others (i.e. to the other two Ministers) that he has at heart the maintenance of friendship with all the Powers, the continuance of peace with them, and the increase of such commercial relations as may be of advantage both for his subjects and for those of the foreign States.

His Majesty would wish, above all, that your powerful nation should treat with the other Great Powers that have political and commercial relations with Morocco, in order that they may make an engagement to preserve and guarantee the peace, tranquillity, and territorial integrity of Morocco, that she may be recognized, guaranteed, and considered by all as a neutral country, which would be friendly to all the Powers, and would keep itself from all contentions with them, and would be inviolable for all nations; no one would do it any damage, and it would do no one else any damage, it would be guaranteed and secured in conformity with the international law which binds the nations together, and thus should be shown by a Treaty with the signatures and seals of the Governments, as is usual for matters of such importance.

By order of our Master (whom God protect) we have given a like reply to the friendly Ministers of Spain and Great Britain.

(Signed) MOHAMED EL MUFADDEL BEN  
MOHAMED GARNIT

Inclosure 3 in No. 79.

M. Crispi to M. Scovasso.

(Translation)  
M. le Ministre,

Rome, September 7, 1887.

IN your Report of the 23rd August last you informed me of the answer given by the Sultan of Morocco to the identic notes addressed to him in March last, on instructions from their respective Governments, by the Ministers of Italy, Great Britain, and Spain.

His Sherceffian Majesty asks in substance that the three Powers may take the initiative with the other States in order that the integrity and independence of Morocco may be guaranteed by Treaty, and the Empire be recognized as a neutral State.

The proposal shall be attentively considered; the decision we may come to will be communicated to you.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) F. CRISPI.

No. 80.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 81. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 5, 1887.

NEWS has reached the French Legation here of the murder, on or about the 22nd ultimo, by some tribesmen of Azimour, who are generally in revolt against the Sultan, of Commandant Schmitt, one of the French officers attached to the Military Commission established by the French Government at the Moorish Court for the purpose of instructing the Sherceffian artillery and cavalry.

The official report of the occurrence states that Commandant Schmitt lost his life in a skirmish which took place between some of the Sultan's horsemen and a band of the rebels, but I have reason to know that the unfortunate officer was seized and strangled by half-a-dozen men of unknown origin whilst he was engaged fishing in a small stream at a short distance from the Sherceffian camp.

Though it is to be hoped that the murder may really be laid at the door of the Azimour tribe, still I must not lude from your Lordship that recent confidential reports received by me of the overhearing proceedings of the members of the French

Military Commission, even towards the Sultan himself, made me fear some untoward incident of the nature which has befallen Commandant Schmitt.

The occurrence is much to be deplored, for, if it is allowed to pass as a simple mishap of warfare and not treated as requiring special investigation and reparation, before long it will be found that the Moors will have understood the lesson, and the lives of Europeans travelling in the interior will be less safe than has hitherto been the case.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 81

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 82.)

Tangier, September 8, 1887.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that ten boys have been selected by the Sultan and handed over to Signor Scovasso for transmission to Italy, where the Italian Minister has promised that they will be educated gratuitously in Government schools as military and civil engineers.

I trust that these youths, after their education has terminated, will find their services more valued by the Sultan than has been the case with most of the unfortunate men who were brought up in England, Spain, and other countries. The mere fact that these men have gained their special and superior knowledge in Christian lands seems to be a bar to their advancement, most of them being employed in very subordinate positions on a mere pittance.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 82.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)

(No. 83. Confidential.)

Tangier, September 10, 1887.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Captain Allan Maclean, who assists his brother Knid Maclean in instructing the Sultan's regular troops, has arrived here to-day from Mekinez for the purpose of proceeding to Belgium and England to execute some large orders received from the Moorish Government for arms, ammunition, and other military requirements.

Captain Maclean is to purchase immediately 12,000 breech-loading rifles (Remington's if possible) and to contract for a later delivery of 1,000. He is also to procure 8,000,000 cartridges, and 500 uniforms for the Sultan's body guard of regular soldiers.

Patterns of rifles are, moreover, to be sought for a further purchase later on of 40,000 guns.

Captain Maclean tells me that these commissions are not to be looked upon as warlike preparations, but merely in the light of a trading venture on the part of the Sultan himself. His Majesty wishes to dispose of the rifles in question at a profit to his militia, which is bound to arm itself. He is evidently not very anxious about the efficiency of the weapons, but stipulates for a large margin for profit by limiting the price to be paid for the rifles at 20s. a-piece, landed free at Tangier or Rabat, and inclusive of all charges for commission, &c. Captain Maclean fears much that owing to these exacting conditions he will not be able to give the advantage of the orders to British manufacturers, and that he will only be able to obtain their acceptance in Belgium.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 17.)*

(No. 98. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, September 10, 1887*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 96, Confidential, of the 7th instant,\* I have the honour to inform your Lordship that in talking over the matter confidentially with Captain Allan Maclean, who has just arrived from the Sherrefian Court at Mekinez, he has expressed to me the belief that the Sultan may have been tempted to write his letter about the telegraph cable whilst under the influence of the news of the refusal by the Sultan of Turkey to ratify the Egyptian Convention.

Captain Maclean tells me that his refusal created the greatest sensation at the Moorish Court, and that there are persons here who evidently make it their business to supply Mulai Hassan with all items of news at all bearing disadvantageously on British relations with the East. But Captain Maclean also informs me that when he quitted Mekinez four days ago he and his brother, who is in command of the regular troops, had observed that there was a change of ideas for the better in Court circles with regard to British proceedings in the East.

I think that this change may be dependent on the unfortunate occurrence of the murder of Commandant Schmitt and the fear of the Sherrefian Government that it may give rise to complications with the French, in which case Mulai Hassan would, of course, be glad to feel that he may count on English support.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 84.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 19.)*

(No. 366)

My Lord,

*Paris, September 17, 1887*

IN answer to your Lordship's despatch No. 525 of the 3rd instant, respecting the claim of Messrs. Scieluna and Tajar for losses incurred by the French military occupation of Gabès, I have the honour to acknowledge a copy of a note just received from M. Florens.

His Excellency states that after careful examination of the documents submitted by the claimants through Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis, the facts alleged by them cannot in strict law be considered to give them right to an indemnity, relating as they do solely to acts of war which cannot, by international law, except under circumstances foreign to the present case, throw on a Government pecuniary responsibility.

This has been confirmed lately by a decision of the Council of State in a similar case.

It is therefore merely as a favour that the application of the claimants could be entertained. But, M. Florens adds, it must be remembered that when the Sfax indemnities were divided the claimants, who suffered loss during the events there in 1881, received a considerable sum, which, according to information furnished to his Department, seems to have been a full compensation. The case of the claimants is not, then, says His Excellency, more worthy of consideration than that of others who have, like them, suffered from the action of French troops in Tunis, and, in consequence, he cannot accede to the favour which they ask.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

Inclosure in No. 84.

*M. Florens to Mr. Egerton.*

Monsieur,

*Paris, le 17 Septembre, 1887.*

VOUS avez bien voulu, par votre lettre du 5 de ce mois, m'exprimer le désir de connaître la suite dont avait été jugée susceptible la demande d'indemnité présentée par MM. Scieluna et Tajar.

Ces négociants s'étaient adressés, il y a quelques années, aux autorités militaires

\* Not printed.

Françaises, en vue d'être indemnisés des pertes qu'ils auraient subies lors de l'occupation de Gabès par nos troupes; mais la Commission, chargée à cette époque de l'examen de leur requête, ne put statuer définitivement, le mandataire des intéressés n'ayant pas fourni les pièces justificatives qui lui étaient demandées.

MM. Scieluna et Tajar sollicitèrent alors l'intervention du Gouvernement de la Reine et l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Paris voulut bien saisir mon prédécesseur de leur réclamation. Toutefois, les requérants n'ayant présenté aucun moyen de preuve nouveau, M. de Freycinet ne put que s'en tenir aux termes de la décision prise antérieurement par la Commission d'enquête susmentionnée, et il répondit en conséquence à Lord Lyons, le 7 Avril, 1886, qu'il n'était pas possible d'examiner utilement cette question, tant que les intéressés n'auraient pas produit des pièces de nature à en établir le caractère exact.

Postérieurement à cette date MM. Scieluna et Tajar ont adressé aux autorités Françaises, par l'intermédiaire de M. le Consul Britannique à Tunis, un certain nombre de documents tendant à prouver le bien fondé de leurs précédentes réclamations.

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que, après un examen attentif de ces documents, il a été reconnu que, en droit strict, les faits allégués par les intéressés ne sauraient constituer à leur profit des titres à une indemnité. En effet, il s'agit uniquement, dans l'espèce, de faits de guerre, et il est constant, en droit international, que des actes de cette nature ne peuvent, à moins de circonstances qui ne se rencontrent pas dans le cas présent, engager la responsabilité pécuniaire des Gouvernements.

Cette jurisprudence a d'ailleurs été confirmée récemment par un Arrêt du Conseil d'État, rendu au sujet d'une affaire analogue à celle dont vous avez bien voulu m'en-tretenir.

Ce ne serait donc qu'à titre purement gracieux que la requête de ces négociants pourrait être accueillie. Mais il convient de rappeler à cet égard que, lors de la répartition des indemnités de Sfax, les intéressés, qui avaient subi des pertes pendant les événements dont cette ville fut le théâtre en 1881, ont reçu une somme relativement considérable, et qui, d'après les renseignements fournis à mon Département, a compensé et au delà le préjudice qu'ils avaient souffert. La situation des petits nautiers n'est donc pas plus digne de considération que celle des autres personnes qui ont, comme eux, éprouvé des dommages par suite de l'action de nos troupes en Tunisie, et il n'a pas paru dès lors qu'il y eût lieu de leur accorder la faveur qu'ils sollicitent.

Agréer, &c.

(Signé) FLORENS.

No. 85.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Baron von Plessen.*

*M. le Chargé d'Affaires.*

*Foreign Office, September 21, 1887.*

WITH reference to Count Hatzfeldt's note of the 9th instant, I have the honour to acquaint you that the arbitration agreed upon between the British and French Governments on the occasion of the abolition of British Consular jurisdiction in Tunis, the 31st December, 1883, embraced only such claims of British subjects against the Government as were actually pending at the time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 86.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 24.)*

(No. 100. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, September 15, 1887.*

I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, an extract from a letter received by me from Karl Maclean, the English officer employed for the last eleven years in the instruction of the Sultan's regular troops, concerning the political use to which the French Government is evidently putting the Military Commission which it maintains at the Moorish Court.

I have reason to know that, whilst Mulai Hassan fully realizes the object for which the French officers are in Morocco, he trusts to his political dexterity and to the chapter of accidents for frustrating the designs of the French Government.

The probability is that, in course of time, an attempt will be made to induce the Sultan to place not only his military strength under the guidance of Frenchmen, but also his political relations with abroad, and I do not feel sure that His Shereefian Majesty will not accept the idea as one calculated to free him from the annoyance of foreign intercourse.

With regard to Kaid Maclean's allusion to French suspicions concerning the establishment of the Spanish convent at Fez, I understand the French educational religious confraternity of Lazarites is preparing to found a college at Tangier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Kaid Maclean to Sir W. K. Green.

(Extract)

Mequinez, September 11, 1887

A FRENCH engineer officer has arrived here, and he is going to Fez to look after and take charge of some machinery the Sultan has for making rifles and coining money, and they say this engineer is going to make and do all sorts of things for His Shereefian Majesty and is to live in Fez. This is some more of the French Minister's kindness, and when the Sultan wants to get rid of all these Frenchmen he will find he cannot. I am sure their policy is to get hold of the Sultan and his country in a snake-in-the-grass sort of way, as the French officers here are all most careful not to hurt the Moorish feeling, and are all bows and scrapes at the Court. This is quite different to what they used to be, and now the French want to get the Sultan into their power by being his friend and trying to get his confidence, and then one day letting him know it is too late to struggle. His Shereefian Majesty can never get rid of this French Military Mission, and it grows bigger every year, and I hear the French are trying to get one at Oujda.

I saw the French doctor to-day and they do not like the idea of the Spaniards having a convent in Fez, and told me it means the Spaniards will soon follow if they can.

Do you know a French Company has started business in Fez and are trying to undersell all the merchants there, and the merchants of Fez are in a dreadful way.

The French officer to take the place of the late Captain Schmitt is expected to arrive here at once.

No. 87.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received September 25.)

Sir,

War Office, September 22, 1887

IN reply to your letter of the 25th ultimo, transmitting copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, inclosing a Report by Lieutenant Boulnois, R.A., on the present state of the Moorish military forces, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to request that you will be good enough to inform the Marquis of Salisbury that he concurs with his Lordship's proposal to instruct Sir W. Kirby Green to thank Mr. Boulnois for his interesting Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. G. DEEDEE.

No. 88.

Foreign Office to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 1.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 24, 1887.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 28, Consular, of the 16th ultimo, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith, for your

information, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Paris,\* in which Mr. Egerton reports that the decision of the French Government is unfavourable to the claim of Messrs. Scieluna and Tajar for losses incurred by them through the French military occupation of Gabes.

I am at the same time to request that you will communicate Mr. Egerton's despatch and its inclosure to the claimants, with an expression of regret at the adverse result of their appeal to the French Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 89.

Foreign Office to Home Office.

Foreign Office, September 26, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 7 of September 5, 1887: ante, No. 72.]

No. 90.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.

(No. 70. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, September 27, 1887.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 71, Confidential, of the 3rd ultimo, forwarding a Report by Lieutenant Boulnois, R.A., on the present state of the Moorish military forces; and I have to request you to convey to that officer my best thanks for his interesting Report.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 91.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received September 28.)

(No. 101.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 21, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have to-day received information, under date of the 18th instant, from a trustworthy and confidential source at Mequinez, that the Sultan had been confined in the harem apartments for the past seven days, suffering from severe fever, and that considerable anxiety as to His Majesty's recovery was being evinced by his surroundings, as was shown through the numerous and frequent sacrifices of bullocks that were being made at the different saint-houses and sanctuaries.

My informant, late on the afternoon of the 18th, added in a postscript to his letter that the Sultan was reported to be slightly better, and I have been asked to procure some remedies to be sent by express courier which it was hoped His Majesty might be induced to take to prevent the return of the fever.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 92.

Mr. Scott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 357. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Berlin, September 27, 1887

A FEW days ago Count de Launay, the Italian Ambassador, asked me if I had received a copy of the Sultan of Morocco's reply to the collective note of the British,

\* No. 24.

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Spanish, and Italian Ministers, and if I had had an opportunity of discussing its contents with Count Bismarck.

I replied that I had received a copy of the Moroquin reply, but that I had not had an opportunity of seeing Count Bismarck since, nor had I received any authority to speak to him on the subject.

Count de Launay then said that as the German Government was cognizant of the collective step taken by the three Governments, and in sympathy with its object, he had on his own responsibility communicated to Count Bismarck the substance of the Sultan's reply, with the object of eliciting an expression of opinion, but I gathered from Count de Launay that Count Bismarck had hesitated to express himself decidedly on the subject before ascertaining how the note was regarded by other Governments more directly concerned by it.

To-day the Spanish Minister called at the Embassy on his way to the Foreign Office, and put to me a similar question, and I gave him the same reply.

Count Benomar then said that the main object of his visit to Count Bismarck to-day was to inform him of the second note which the Spanish Government had received from the Sultan of Morocco requesting them to reassemble the Madrid Conference with a view to the revision of the Madrid Convention, and the restriction of the much-abused rights of foreign protection in Morocco. He presumed that I had already seen this note, offering, if not, to furnish me with a copy.

I replied that I had not been aware of the existence of this note but that I had observed in a report by Sir W. Kirby Green of a conversation which he had had with Señor Diodado on the latter's return from Rabat, and on the eve of his departure for Madrid, that Señor Diodado had mentioned his having counselled this step to the Sultan.

Count Benomar said that he was now instructed to sound the German Government as to its readiness to take part in a new sitting of the Conference at Madrid for the purpose desired by the Sultan, if officially invited to do so by the Spanish Government. He said that he believed your Lordship was already in possession of a copy of the Moroquin note and Señor Moret had informed him that he proposed to speak himself to Sir Charles Lyell on regard to it.

Count Benomar promised to let me know the result of his interview with Count Bismarck; he said that he knew the German Government were in favour of the restriction or relinquishment of the rights of foreign protection in Morocco, but that they shared in the general belief that the French Government would object to a revision of the Madrid Convention; he could now tell me, in confidence, that this apprehension seemed premature.

Señor Moret, on his passage through Paris to Vichy, had exchanged visits with M. Floarens, and the subject of Morocco had cropped up in the course of conversation. Señor Moret had emphasized in very plain and strong terms the vital importance of the Spanish Government, in the interest of Spain and its present dynasty, attached to the maintenance of the independence of the Sultan of Morocco and his dominions. M. Floarens had replied that he quite understood this feeling, and that Señor Moret might rest assured that the French Government had not the slightest wish or intention to interfere with the independence of Morocco, adding that he had strongly disapproved the action of M. Ordega, the late French Representative there.

Encouraged by this assurance, Señor Moret appears to have then sounded M. Floarens as to his disposition to join in a revision of the Madrid Convention in case the Sultan of Morocco asked the Spanish Government to reassemble the Conference of Madrid for that purpose. Señor Moret purposely refrained from mentioning that he had the Sultan's request to that effect already in his pocket. M. Floarens replied that he thought the French Government would be quite prepared to join in the Conference if officially invited, and to agree to restrict or relinquish their rights of protection in Morocco, on the express condition that the Sultan of Morocco, in return, would give some solid security for the proper administration of justice in his dominions. M. Floarens said that in point of fact the existing rights of protection had given the French Government more embarrassment than advantage.

I saw Count Bismarck later in the day, and his Excellency was good enough to repeat to me his conversation with Count Benomar, and the reply which he had given to him, which he thought I might like to communicate to your Lordship.

Count Bismarck observed to Count Benomar that, while sympathizing with the object of the proposed Conference, he would prefer to ascertain the views of Her Majesty's Government, and of the other Powers more directly interested in Morocco,

before giving a definite answer, but if those Powers were prepared to accept the Spanish invitation, the German Government would no doubt do so also.

Count Bismarck then said that he would like me to convey a suggestion to your Lordship on a point which he had not touched upon when speaking to Count Benomar. He thought it might be desirable to intimate to the Sultan of Morocco that we were prepared to meet his wishes in regard to the abandonment of privileges of protection, on the express condition of his engaging himself, in return, and in a binding form, to accord the desired facilities to foreign commerce in his dominions.

His Excellency said that if your Lordship approved this suggestion, he thought it had better be initiated by Her Majesty's Government, which had the largest commercial interest in Morocco, and the German Government would then be prepared to support it, and make a similar intimation. He expressed a wish to learn your Lordship's views in regard to this suggestion.

Count Bismarck then mentioned the reply to the collective note which had also formed the subject of remarks to him both by Count de Launay and Count Benomar. His Excellency said that this was a subject upon which he had naturally not been able to express any decided opinion before knowing the views of all the Powers to whom the note had been addressed, but, speaking academically, he thought there was a good deal in a personal suggestion thrown out by Count de Launay, which was that the Sultan of Morocco should himself issue a declaration of the independence and neutrality of his dominions, and invite the Powers to bind themselves in some formal manner to respect it.

I may mention that Count Benomar, in speaking to me on this subject, observed that the Spanish Government were satisfied by the Sultan's note, and the explanation which they had received, that his proposal to the three Powers, if accepted, would preclude the possibility of his parting with any territory to a foreign Power without the consent of those three Powers, and that he was prepared to engage himself, if necessary, to that effect.

I was careful in my conversations with Count de Launay, Count Benomar, and Count Bismarck to inform them that I was not in a position to offer any opinion as to the views which Her Majesty's Government might take of the Sultan's note.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES E. SCOTT.

No. 93.

Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received October 3.)

Downing Street, October 1, 1887.

Sir,

WITH reference to the correspondence noted in the margin,\* I am directed by Secretary Sir H. Holland to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Marquis of Salisbury, the accompanying further application from Messrs. Joseph Scicluna and Sons (which has been forwarded by the Governor of Malta) on the subject of their claims for losses suffered by them at Gabes in 1881.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 93.

Petition.

To the Right Honourable Sir Henry Holland, Bart., M.P., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, London.

The Petition of Messrs. Joseph Scicluna and Sons, Bankers, and J. Tajar, Merchant, of Malta,

Respectfully sheweth:

THAT in the month of November 1885, petitioners addressed a Petition to you in respect of their claims against the French Government for losses suffered at Gabes,

\* Colonial Office, December 23, 1885, Foreign Office, January 2, February 2, and April 21, 1886.



in the Regency of Tunis, in June 1881, and on the 23rd January, 1886, they were informed by his Excellency the Governor that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had forwarded the said Petition to Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis for inquiry and report;

That on the 28th February, 1886, petitioners received another communication from his Excellency the Governor embodying a further despatch from the Foreign Office, the substance of which was to the effect that an instruction had been addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris requesting him to bring the case to the notice of the French Government with a hope to a settlement by arbitration, and that petitioners should place themselves in communication with Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis, who was instructed to give every assistance;

That by letter of the 27th April, 1886, Her Majesty's Consul for Tunis, under direction of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, called upon petitioners to send him any documentary evidence in support of their claims, which evidence was duly forwarded and acknowledged by the Consul by letter of the 25th June, 1886. Petitioners also paid to the Consul 20/- for cost of copies.

That by letter of the 22nd January, 1887, Her Majesty's Consul informed petitioners that the French Resident-General at Tunis had informed him that he had caused inquiry to be made of the military authorities, who had not yet furnished him with any information, but he promised to reiterate inquiries.

That by letter of the 6th February, 1887, petitioners received from the Consul copy letter from the French Resident-General (inclosed herewith, marked A, to the effect that the documentary evidence had been forwarded to the War Minister.

That by letter of the 3rd March, 1887, petitioners received from the Consul another copy letter written by the Resident-General (inclosed herewith, marked B), stating that the delay was due to the circumstance that the documentary evidence had to be translated, that the subject was under the consideration of the War Minister, and that a decision would soon be given;

That by letter of the 22nd August, 1887 (inclosed herewith, marked C) from the Consul, petitioners were surprised to learn that the War Minister had decided to have nothing to do with the claims and had referred the papers to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, an answer which has been duly reported to the Foreign Office.

In these circumstances, petitioners have no alternative but again to appeal to Her Majesty's Government for the vindication of their rights to compensation for the losses sustained, which the documentary evidence provided fully proves, even if their rights had not been recognized by a French Military Commission which sat immediately after the damages were suffered, but which cleverly avoided giving a decision, and by the fact of a proposed arbitration, which also fell through.

Petitioners have been put to great expense and inconvenience, a correspondence having been maintained ever since.

The foregoing correspondence, as detailed, will show how the Petitioners have been treated by the French authorities, who are simply putting off without reason their decision, which would soon have been given if they had any hope of being able to give it favourable to themselves.

Petitioners think that they have just reason to complain, and they would therefore appeal to Her Majesty's Government to take such immediate and energetic steps and measures as may be necessary to obtain a settlement of petitioners' claims, so that the rights of petitioners as British subjects may be vindicated and satisfied, in accordance not only with justice and equity but with the law of nations.

And petitioners in duty bound will for ever pray.

(For Scicluna and Tajar),  
(Signed)

GEORGE ALFRED PAGE, Solicitor.

September 18, 1887.

Inclosure 2 in No. 93.

Correspondence.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta, January 23, 1886.  
WITH reference to your letter of the 20th November last, I am desired by his Excellency the Governor to inform you that a despatch has been received from the Colonial Office, covering copy of a letter from the Foreign Office, in which it is stated that the Petition from Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, in respect of claims for losses

suffered at Gabes, in the Regency of Tunis, will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis for inquiry and report.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WALTER HELY HUTCHISON,  
Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Secretary to Government.

Geo. Alfred Page, Esq.,

&c. &c. &c.

Sir,

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta, February 20, 1886.

With reference to my letter of the 23rd ultimo, I am directed by his Excellency the Governor to state that a despatch has been received from the Colonial Office with reference to the claim advanced by your clients, Messrs. B. Scicluna and J. di Jos Tajar, on account of losses alleged to have been sustained in June 1881, when Gabes, in the Regency of Tunis, was occupied by the French troops.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies has requested the Governor to acquaint you that there appears to have been a misunderstanding with regard to the settlement of your clients' claim by arbitration, owing to which it was not submitted for the decision of Sir A. Dingle and M. de Blignières when those gentlemen met at Tunis to investigate and decide upon all outstanding British claims, that an instruction has been addressed from the Foreign Office to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, requesting him to bring the case to the notice of the French Government and to urge them to consent to its settlement by arbitration; that Lord Salisbury, however, did not entertain much hope that the French Government would consent to reopen the case, and that your clients should place themselves in direct communication with Her Majesty's Consul at Tunis, who will be instructed to give them all the assistance in his power in the prosecution of their claims should the French Government agree to the arbitration.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WALTER HELY HUTCHISON.

G. A. Page, Esq.,

&c. &c. &c.

Gentlemen,

Tunis, April 27, 1886.

In the Petition which you lately addressed to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, you state that you have collected documentary evidence in support of your claim for compensation for losses alleged to have been sustained by you in June 1881, at Gabes, in this Regency.

I am directed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to request you to send to me the evidence above referred to, in order that I may submit it to the competent authorities here.

I remain, &c.

(Signed)

THOMAS B. SANDWICH, Consul.

Sir,

Tunis, June 26, 1886.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, under cover of which you transmit me nine documents, purporting to prove the losses sustained at Gabes by Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, merchants of Malta, in partnership and separately.

Mr. Michael Pisani of this city has in his possession other documents which he thinks are important as contributing to prove your clients' allegations, and which will thus form part of the "dossier." It will be my duty to transmit copies of these documents to the French Minister Resident, the expenses connected with which will be considerable, according to the Consular Fees Order in Council 1855. I would call your attention to Fees Nos. 91 and 92 thus worded:—

"91. For making a copy of a document, if not exceeding 100 words, 1s. 6d.

"92. If exceeding that number, for every subsequent 100 words, or fraction thereof, 1s.

"N.B.—If the copy is in any foreign language, double the above fees may be charged."

I think, therefore, in view of these charges, that I must request you to remit me on account the sum of 20/-.

I remain, &c.

(Signed)

THOMAS B. SANDWICH, Consul.

George Alfred Page, Esq.,

Malta.

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13, *Strada Reale, Valletta, Malta, June 1885.*  
 In accordance with your request, dated the 27th April, 1886, and under the terms of the despatch of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, of the 1886, I beg to send you documentary proofs in connection with the claims for losses sustained at Gabes, of Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar, merchants of this town, in partnership, and of both separately. These documents in number, afford, I think, ample proof. Document 9, entitled, "Observations," clearly explains the circumstances of the case. The delay in sending these documents is due to the illness of Mr. Scicluna. An acknowledgment of this letter and inclosures will oblige. Hoping soon to hear from you of a favourable result to this affair, I am, &c.  
 (Signed) GEO. ALFRED PAGE,  
*Solicitor and Notary Public.*

P.S.—Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar claim 1,494l. 5s. for losses, which Mr. Tajar claims 663l. 11s. 4d. separately, and Mr. Scicluna 280l. separately.  
 T. B. Sandwith, Esq., C.B.,  
 Her Britannic Majesty's Consul,  
 Tunis. G. A. P.

Dear Sir, *Tunis, January 29, 1887.*  
 Before the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, I had written to the new Resident-General to inquire what progress had been made towards a settlement of the claim of your clients, Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar. No answer having been received to my letter, I yesterday called upon the Resident, who informed me that he had caused inquiry to be made of the military authorities, who had not yet furnished him with any information on the subject, but he promised to reiterate inquiries. I will, of course, inform you of the result.

Believe me, &c.  
 (Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.  
 George Alfred Page, Esq.,  
 &c. &c. &c.

(A.) *Tunis, le 3 Février, 1887.*  
 M. le Consul,  
 Par lettre du 7 Janvier dernier, vous m'avez exprimé le désir de connaître la suite donnée à la réclamation formulée par les nommés Scicluna et Tajar, de Malte, contre l'Administration Militaire Française, en raison des dommages qu'ils auraient éprouvés à la suite de l'occupation de Gabes par nos troupes en 1861. Ainsi que vous en avez été informé, à la date du 11 Septembre, les pièces justificatives, fournies par les intéressés, ont été transmises à M. le Ministre de la Guerre, suivant ses instructions, par M. le Général Commandant la brigade d'occupation.

La Résidence n'ayant reçu, depuis lors, aucune communication à ce sujet, je viens de rappeler cette affaire à M. le Général Gillon, et je ne manquerai pas de vous faire connaître sa réponse, aussitôt qu'elle me sera parvenue.

Agréer, &c.  
 (Signed) J. MASSICAULT.

Dear Sir, *Tunis, February 6, 1887.*  
 I beg to inclose you copy of a letter which I have received from the new Resident of the Republic touching your clients' claims. As soon as I receive further information on the subject you shall be informed.

Faithfully yours,  
 (Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

G. A. Page, Esq.,  
 &c. &c. &c.

Dear Sir, *Tunis, March 3, 1887.*  
 I beg to inclose you copy of a letter I have received from the French Minister Resident relative to the claims of your clients, Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar.

Hoping a solution will soon be given to this question, I remain, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

G. A. Page, Esq.,  
 &c. &c. &c.

(B.)

M. le Consul, *Tunis, le 28 Février, 1887.*  
 Comme suite à ma lettre du 8 de ce mois, relative à la réclamation formulée par MM. Scicluna et Tajar, de Malte, contre l'Administration Militaire Française, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire connaître, d'après une communication de M. le Général Commandant la brigade d'occupation, que l'examen de cette réclamation par le Département de la Guerre a été retardé par suite de la nécessité où l'on s'est trouvé de faire traduire préalablement les nombreuses pièces en langue Italienne et Anglaise produites par les intéressés.

L'affaire est actuellement à l'étude et M. le Ministre de la Guerre espère être à même de prendre une décision dans un délai assez rapproché.

Agréer, &c.  
 (Signed) J. MASSICAULT.

M. le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique,  
 Tunis.

(C.)

Dear Sir, *Tunis, August 22, 1887.*  
 With reference to your letter of the 13th instant I beg to inform you that, after a very long delay, the French Minister Resident here has replied in the following terms to my last demand for a settlement of the claim of Messrs. Scicluna and Tajar:—

"J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le Ministre de la Guerre a cru devoir se désister de cette réclamation et qu'il en a renvoyé le dossier à M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères."

I have already reported this answer to the Foreign Office. It will be for your clients to consider what steps they should now take.

Faithfully yours,  
 (Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Geo. Alfred Page, Esq.,  
 &c. &c. &c.

True copies:  
 (Signed) GEO. ALFRED PAGE,  
*Notary Public, Malta.*

Given this 17th day of September, 1887.

No. 94.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 187 A. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 3, 1887.*  
 THE Spanish Minister called at this Office to-day to state that his Government believe the Sultan of Morocco is dying, if not dead, and that, in view of the complications and dangers which there is much reason to fear would arise in such an event, they would be glad to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the policy which it would be expedient for the three friendly Powers to adopt.

M. del Mazo observed that, as the heir and probable successor is only 19 years of age, and is sure to fall a victim to any local or foreign intrigue, it would seriously disturb the balance of power in the Mediterranean should the country fall into the hands of France; and that it was of the utmost importance to guard against a *fait accompli*.

I am, &c.  
 (Signed) SALISBURY.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 102. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 27, 1887.

HERB VON BALDERN, my German colleague, has informed me, confidentially, that some time ago Cid El Hadj Mohammed Torres the Acting Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, asked him to ascertain whether any objection existed at Berlin to the reception of a Special Embassy which the Sultan was desirous to send to the Emperor.

Herr Von BalderN was directed to reply, in accordance with a suggestion made by himself to Prince Bismarck, that the German Government, in view of the persistent opposition of Mulai Hassan to the conclusion of a Commercial Treaty between Germany and Morocco, were unwilling to move the Emperor to receive the proposed Embassy, unless, indeed, the Sultan wished to bring under His Imperial Majesty's notice some decision connected with possible future political occurrences.

Since making the above communication to Cid El Hadj Mohammed Torres, the German Representative has heard nothing more from his Excellency about a Moorish Embassy to Berlin.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 103. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, September 27, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the United States' screw-frigate "Pensacola," flag-ship of Rear-Admiral Greer, and the screw-corvette "Quinnebang," arrived here from Gibraltar on Sunday morning, and left yesterday (Monday) evening for Algiers and Constantinople.

To-day, whilst calling on Mr. Reed Lewis, the United States' Consul, he informed me that the American European squadron had come to Tangier in order to strengthen his hands in his intercourse with the Moorish Government. Mr. Reed Lewis, in succeeding Colonel Matthews, had been confronted with many disagreeable questions and abuses which called for immediate settlement, but instead of meeting with support in this work, which was very much in favour of the Moorish Government, he had been surprised to find himself thwarted and checked at every point by the barefaced untruthfulness and ill-will of Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Acting Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, and the apparent determination of the rest of the Moorish Government to avoid to the utmost their Treaty obligations, and to turn a deaf ear to all advice in favour of absolutely needful reforms and progress.

After due consultation with Admiral Greer, Mr. Reed Lewis yesterday addressed a note, which, I believe, was countersigned by the Admiral, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Mequinez, calling for the dismissal of Hadj Mohammed Torres on account of his disregard for truth and generally obstructive conduct, and also demanding that, for the future, the Moorish Government should show more good-will and alacrity in accepting measures which were recommended principally with the object of putting on a fair and proper basis the relations between Moors and the citizens of the United States. The note concluded with the intimation that Admiral Greer would, after a proper lapse of time, return to Tangier, when, it was to be hoped, he would not find himself under the necessity of visiting some of the most important of the Sultan's ports on the western coast for the purpose of bringing under more immediate notice his power to enforce Mr. Reed Lewis' demands.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Catalani.

Foreign Office, October 4, 1887.

M le Chargé d'Affaires,

I HAVE the honour to offer the following observations in reply to the verbal request made by you on the 18th ultimo to be informed of the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the reply of the Sultan of Morocco to the collective note of last March, in which he was invited to undertake not to make any further cessions of territory without previously taking the advice of the three friendly Powers.

The Sultan passes over that proposal in silence, and makes a counter-proposal that the neutrality and integrity of his Empire should be guaranteed by the European Powers.

This last proposal is not one which commends itself to Her Majesty's Government.

They are of opinion that it would be imprudent to guarantee the neutrality of a country of which the institutions did not furnish some security that it is unlikely to take any course which would invite and justify hostile action on the part of other Powers; and they consider that the political condition of Morocco renders it, on this account, undesirable to enter into the obligations which might result from such a guarantee.

At present there appears to be no prospect of improvement in the condition of Morocco, and Her Majesty's Government think that His Sherrefian Majesty should indicate what reforms in his administration are contemplated likely to be carried out before his proposal for a guarantee of the neutrality and integrity of his Empire could be entertained.

Had His Majesty's counter-proposal been to the effect that he would undertake to make no further cession of territory without the assent of the Great Powers, provided the latter entered into a Self-denying Agreement, such a proposal, in the view of Her Majesty's Government, would not have been open to objection on these grounds.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. J. G. Kennedy.

(No. 223 A. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 4, 1887.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called at this Office to-day and inquired what prompt action Her Majesty's Government thought desirable in view of the present critical condition of the Sultan of Morocco, and of the complications and dangers which would probably arise in the event of His Sherrefian Majesty's death.

It was of great importance, M. Catalani observed, to guard against *faits accomplis*, and he stated that his Government were ready to concert with Her Majesty's Government as to sending a naval force to Morocco waters. M. Catalani added, however, that he had to-day received a telegram from Signor Crispi to the effect that the Italian Minister at Tangier had heard, on good authority, that the Sultan was much better.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 4, 1887

REPORTS have been received at this Office that the serious illness from which the Emperor of Morocco is suffering may have a fatal termination, and it is feared that, in the event of His Sherrefian Majesty's death, disturbances may arise in that country.

I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state that, in his opinion, it would be desirable that a ship of war should be in readiness at Gibraltar to proceed to Tangier,

in case of need, for the protection of British life and property; and I am to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to give the necessary directions accordingly.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 99\*

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)*

(No. 10.)

My Lord,

Tunis, September 19, 1887

I HAVE the honour to bring to your Lordship's notice the question of the right to British protection enjoyed by the family of General Ben Ayad. The origin of that right dates as far back as the year 1848, at which date Sir Thomas Reade, Her Majesty's then Agent and Consul-General, had offered the grandfather of the present General an asylum in this Consulate against the persecutions of the reigning Bey. Lord Palmerston, a copy of whose letter I have the honour to inclose, approved of Sir T. Reade's action, and since the date of that letter the grandson referred to therein, who is the present General Hamida Ben Ayad, enjoys the status of a British subject. His sons, grandsons, brothers, and nephews claim also the rights of British subjects, and I have now before me the passport granted in 1853, by the late Consul-General Reade, to a brother of General Ben Ayad, in which he is styled a British subject. A son of this latter has applied to me for a new passport, his father being now dead, and I am unwilling to give it without the previous sanction of Her Majesty's Government.

I have remarked that the Tunisian authorities, since their policy has been controlled by the French Republic, without openly disputing the right of the Ben Ayad family to British protection, treat it in such a manner as to render it a doubtful boon. I find in consulting my correspondence with the French Residency in vindication of the claims of members of the family that it is not easy to elicit an answer, and it cannot be said that I have succeeded in having justice accorded to them.

I have therefore the honour to request to be informed whether I should issue passports to the sons of General Ben Ayad's brothers, and whether in that case I should style them British subjects as their fathers have been styled, or protected British subjects. In the present attitude of the French authorities here towards the members of the family of Ben Ayad, the granting of new passports to them is of questionable utility.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH

P.S. by Sir Lambert Playfair.—I am distinctly of opinion that no new passports whatever should be granted to the Ben Ayad family.

C. L. P.

Inclosure in No. 99\*

*Viscount Palmerston to Sir T. Reade*

81.

Foreign Office, February 16, 1848

I HAVE received your despatches of the 3rd and 25th January respecting the persecutions to which the elder Ben Ayad is exposed, and I have to instruct you to address a letter to the Bey of Tunis, stating that Her Majesty's Government have entirely approved your conduct in regard to that person; that you are instructed to remind the Bey that he had formally and solemnly promised to the British Government, through yourself as British Consul-General, that the person and property of Ben Ayad and his grandson should be protected; that he, the Bey, has broken this promise as far as regards the person of Ben Ayad, because he has permitted Ben Ayad's son to place his father under arrest in his own house; that Ben Ayad having escaped from that unlawful arrest and having taken refuge in the British Consulate, you are ordered to keep him there under your protection as long as he chooses to stay, and not to permit a hair of his head to be touched; and that as to the grandson and the property of the family, Her Majesty's Government expect and demand that the Bey will keep his promise, and not depart from his word.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) PALMERSTON.

No. 100.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)*

(No. 115. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 2, 1887.

AT an interview I held yesterday with Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, his Excellency adverted to the present illness of the Sultan of Morocco, which he considered was of a grave character.

Señor Moret said that, should a catastrophe occur, and the Emperor were to die, Morocco would, he thought, be plunged into a state of civil war.

The heir to the Throne, he said, was a youth of 17 years of age, and although he had displayed considerable military qualities which would, no doubt, recommend him to the Moorish army, still he might find it difficult to maintain himself on the throne.

At any rate, Señor Moret added, the death of the Sultan would be the signal for France to push on her designs of aggrandizement in the Empire, and should the Sultan die, Spain would feel herself forced, for the protection of her own interests, to send troops to Ceuta and Melilla. Señor Moret considered the present state of affairs as very critical, and he thought the moment had come when the Foreign Powers who had interests in Morocco should seriously consider the attitude they meant to assume were his worst fears to be realized, namely, the death of the present Ruler of Morocco.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 101

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5.)*

(No. 116.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 2, 1887

SEÑOR MORET, the Spanish Minister of State, spoke to me yesterday on the subject of a second Conference to be convened in Madrid with a view to settling the work which had been accomplished in the Conference which was held here in 1880 respecting the right of protection of Moorish subjects by the Diplomatic and Consular Representatives of foreign Powers in Morocco.

Señor Moret informed me that, during a recent visit he had made to Paris, M. Flourens, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, had spoken to him on the subject, and had raised no objection concerning it.

Señor Moret likewise stated that, should such a Conference be held, it should be clearly understood that the Emperor of Morocco would be bound to stipulate, in return for the advantages His Majesty would gain owing to the right of protection over Moorish subjects by foreign Powers being relinquished (1) that trade facilities would be granted, and (2) that proper judicial institutions would be inaugurated for the protection of foreigners residing in the Empire.

Señor Moret led me to believe by what he said that he was under the impression that Her Majesty's Representative at Tangier considered that the granting of trade facilities ought properly to precede any question of assembling a Conference to take into consideration the annulling of the right—which Señor Moret said had led to such abuses—of protection by foreigners over Moorish subjects.

Señor Moret was of opinion that the Sultan was not strong enough to carry in his country any trade reforms until he had simultaneously acquired such an important point as the renunciation on the part of foreign Governments of the right to take under their protection Moorish subjects.

Señor Moret, however, appeared to me to entertain the worst fears with regard to the state of the Sultan's health, and he informed me that it would be time enough to discuss the matter of a Conference when once the Sultan had recovered from his present illness.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.



*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, October 5, 1887, 8 A.M.*

CAN you obtain reliable information as to present condition of Sultan?

Telegraph latest news.

Italian Government hear he is much better.

No. 103.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5, 3.45 P.M.)*

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, October 5, 1887, 1.10 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister has just informed me that letters received by him last night from French officers at Moorish Court, under date 1st, depict Sultan's condition as most serious. His Majesty has had a relapse, and his Ministers failed to induce him to show himself to the public as customary on Friday. Ministers are disheartened, and are already asking who is to be the Sultan's successor.

French Representative has telegraphed to Paris for two vessels of war to be held in readiness in case of Sultan's death, one to be sent to Tangier, and the other for the western ports. I think it would be prudent for us also to have two vessels ready at Oublaia.

The Spanish iron-clad "Navarra" is being detained in this port by the Spanish Minister to await further news from Court.

No. 104.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5, 4.30 P.M.)*

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, October 5, 1887, 4.29 P.M.*

I LEARN from a trustworthy source, in a most confidential manner, that the Spanish Government purposes immediately reinforcing the garrison of Ceuta by 8,000 men, in order that, should the Sultan die, and an attempt be made to substitute a usurper, to be able to offer valid support to the successor that may have been designated by Sultan on his death-bed.

With reference to my telegram of this morning, my Spanish colleague is of opinion that we should ask our respective Governments to send us at once each a swift gun-boat, so that we may organize a constant watch over the safety of the numerous European communities at the western ports.

No. 105.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 5, 6 P.M.)*

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, October 5, 1887, 6.10 P.M.*

LETTERS from Kaid McLean of the 1st just received. Confirm news of Sultan's critical state. Muli Ismail, His Majesty's brother, and Viceroy of Fes, would be probably the successor.

*Messrs. Shuttleworth, Cox, and Co. to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6.)*

My Lord,

*Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, October 5, 1887.*

WE beg leave to put before you the following facts.

While trading with the coast of Morocco, Mr. Solomon Pariente, a native of that country, under British protection, became indebted to us in the sum of 454l. 17s. 3d., which we failed to recover.

On our proceeding for payment of this sum, S. Pariente brought a counter-claim against us, and sued us for the amount in the English High Court in London, the action proceeded, and Judgment was given in our favour, both for the counter-claim and for the amount of our debt.

We sent the Judgment to our solicitor in Tangier with instructions to enforce the same, who replied that S. Pariente is now under Danish protection, and although he has applied to the English Consul, he can get no assistance or satisfaction.

As S. Pariente himself, and of his own accord, asked the English Court to exercise jurisdiction, it seems to us that it is right and just that he should be bound by its decision.

The object of the present is to request the favour of your interference, and to beg that instructions may be sent to the British Minister in Tangier to exercise his diplomatic functions to obtain the recognition by the Moorish authorities of the binding effect on a Moorish subject of the Judgment of an English Court whose jurisdiction he has invoked.

We beg to inclose copy of correspondence between our solicitor and Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul.

We are, &c.  
(Signed) SHUTTLEWORTH, COX, AND Co.

Inclosure in No. 106.

*Correspondence between Mr. Mann and Mr. de Ponthieu.*

Sir,

*Tangier, July 15, 1897*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a certified copy of a Judgment of the High Court of Justice in England in an action "1886 P, No. 1489," in which Solomon Moses Pariente was plaintiff, and Frederick Shuttleworth and Co. defendants, with notarial certificate and His Danish Majesty's Consul-General's certificate attached, also an affidavit by Salmon Linton with certificates attached; and as solicitor for and on behalf of Messrs. Frederick Shuttleworth and Co., the defendants named in the said Judgment, I beg that you will use your offices to cause proceedings to be instituted in His Danish Majesty's Consular Court at Tangier at the suit of Salmon Linton, Thomas Edward Cornwell, and Henry Moreton Cox, trading as "Frederick Shuttleworth and Co." merchants, Botolph House, Cheapside, London, against Solomon Moses Pariente, merchant, Tangier, for recovery of the sum of 454l. 17s. 3d. (or a sum in current money equivalent thereto), the amount of the said Judgment recovered by them against the said Solomon Moses Pariente in the High Court of Justice in England, and also for the recovery of such further sum as may be allowed for costs, or in the event of the Consul-General of His Danish Majesty at Tangier declining jurisdiction, that you will promote similar proceedings before the competent Moorish Tribunal, and that you will act in this matter with the utmost celerity possible, and take immediately such action before the Moorish authorities as will preclude Mr. Pariente from obtaining the protection of any foreign Power other than that of His Danish Majesty.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRED. JA. MANN.

To Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul,  
Tangier.

Sir,

Tangier, July 22, 1887.

Will you kindly inform me what has been done in the matter of Shuttleworth and Co. against Solomon Moses Pariente, the papers relating to which I sent to you on the 15th instant?

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRED. JA. MANN.

To Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul,  
Tangier.

Dear Mr. Mann,

August 1, 1887.

I wanted to send you the letter I promised this afternoon, but Sir William accidentally catching sight of it, told me it was not the right thing to make you a communication of the sort, but that if you want the information in writing, you must pay for it, and consequently directed me, if you desire it, to send you a certified copy of his letter.

Yours, &c.  
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

Dear Mr. de Vismes,

Tangier, August 1, 1887.

Shuttleworth and Co. v. Pariente.

By all means send me a copy of the Danish Consul-General's letter, for which I shall be happy to pay the fee, of course; but I cannot see that it would be not right for you, as Acting British Consul, to inform me in writing what you had done in this matter, so that I might have an answer to forward to my clients that could not be misunderstood, as messages verbally given are liable to be.

Believe me, &c.  
(Signed) FRED. JA. MANN.

Dear Mr. Mann,

August 2, 1887.

I inclose a certified copy of the Danish Consul-General's letter as desired by you.

Believe me, &c.  
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

(Inclosure.)

Sir,

Danish Consulate-General, Tangier, July 21, 1887.

In reply to the communication received by me from you on the 16th instant, I beg to inform you that, as I have ascertained that the matter in dispute between Messrs. Shuttleworth and Co. and Mr. Solomon Moses Pariente is one that arose before the latter gained a right to Danish protection, I have informed him, the said Mr. Pariente, that his Danish protection will be withdrawn from him until the Moorish Courts shall have definitely decided the pending questions between the two sides.

The course I have adopted is in accordance with the terms of the Madrid Convention of 1880.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

I certify the above to be a true copy of the original.

(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU,  
Her Majesty's Acting Consul.

No. 107.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 8.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, October 5, 1887.

WITH reference to your letter of the 4th instant, requesting that a ship of war may be held in readiness to proceed to Tangier in the event of the illness from which the Emperor of Morocco is suffering terminating fatally, I am commanded by

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PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to the Marquis of Salisbury that a telegram has been sent to the Senior Naval Officer at Gibraltar directing him to detain Her Majesty's ship "Edinburgh" on arrival at that port to await further orders.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 109.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 6, 4 P.M.)*

(No. 18.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, October 6, 1887, 8:35 P.M.  
WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 15 and 16 of yesterday, my French and Spanish colleagues are desirous that the proposed measures for protecting foreigners should be understood as identical suggestion made by us to our respective Governments.

Italian Chargé d'Affaires has also telegraphed the suggestion to Rome.

No. 109.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 17.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 6, 1887, 5:30 P.M.

YOUR telegrams Nos. 15, 16, and 17.  
Her Majesty's ship "Edinburgh" detained at Gibraltar in readiness to proceed to Tangier.

You may summon her immediately on announcement of death of Sultan, or on any indication of popular commotion.

Admiralty requested to have additional ships of war and gun-boat at Gibraltar in case further assistance required for protection of British life and property.

Other Powers informed, and asked whether prepared to take similar precautions.

No. 110.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green*

(No. 78. Ext. 17.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 6, 1887.

I HAVE to acquaint you that, in consequence of the critical state of the Sultan of Morocco, reported in your telegrams Nos. 15, 16, and 17 of yesterday's date, Her Majesty's ship "Edinburgh" has been detained at Gibraltar so as to be in readiness to proceed to Tangier. You are authorized to summon her at once on the announcement of the decease of the Sultan, or on any evidence of popular commotion in the country.

The Lords of the Admiralty have, moreover, been requested to have an additional ship of war and a gun-boat in readiness at Gibraltar, in the event of further assistance being required for the protection of British life and property in Morocco.

In conclusion, I have to state to you that the Governments of France, Germany, Italy, and Spain have been made acquainted with the steps taken by Her Majesty's Government in the matter, and have been asked whether they are prepared to adopt similar precautions.

The substance of the foregoing has this day been communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 111.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.\**

(No. 29.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, October 6, 1887, 5:30 P.M.

IN view of critical state of Sultan of Morocco, orders will be given for one or more of Her Majesty's ships to proceed to Tangier on requisition of Her Majesty's Minister for the protection of British life and property in case of disturbances. Inform the Government to which you are accredited, and report whether they are prepared to adopt similar precautions.

No. 112.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.†*

(No. 581. Ext. 29.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 6, 1887.

I HAVE to acquaint you that, in view of the critical state of the Sultan of Morocco, instructions will be issued for one or more of Her Majesty's ships to be in readiness at Gibraltar to proceed to Tangier on the requisition of Her Majesty's Minister at that capital, for the protection of British life and property in the event of disturbances occurring.

I have to request you to inform the French Government of the above arrangements, and to report to me whether they also will adopt precautionary measures of a similar character.

I have this day communicated to you by telegraph the substance of the foregoing.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 113.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. J. G. Kennedy.*

(No. 295 A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 6, 1887.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me on the 4th instant, and informed me that he had received instructions to put forward the suggestion of his Government that the Sultan of Morocco might declare to foreign Powers the neutrality of his Empire, asking them to recognize such neutrality.

If Her Majesty's Government and the Governments of other Powers interested should approve of the above suggestion, the Italian Government were prepared to accept it.

M. Catalani added that, in case the replies of the other Governments were discordant, it might then be considered what further course should be adopted.

I have informed M. Catalani, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government would have no objection to recognize such a declaration on the part of the Sultan of the neutrality of his dominions.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 114.

*Foreign Office to Consul Sandwith.*

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 6, 1887.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 10 of the 19th ultimo, in regard to the right to British protection enjoyed by the Benayad family.

I am to state to you that the members of this family cannot be considered

\* Also to Mr. Scott (No. 29), Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 23), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 15).

† Also to Mr. Scott (No. 461), Mr. J. G. Kennedy (No. 276), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 126).

as British subjects, but only as under British protection. General Benayed's nephew is consequently not, and never has been, entitled to a British passport, but only to a certificate that he is under British protection. If, therefore, he makes application for the latter, you should report it, but you will, in the meantime, refuse to issue a passport to him.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE

No. 115.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Sir L. Playfair.*

(No. 6.) *Foreign Office, October 6, 1887.*  
[Transmits (under flying seal) No. 2 to Consul Sandwith, dated October 6, 1887: cmt. No. 114.]

No. 116.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

(Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 6, 1887.*  
WITH reference to the letter from this Office, marked Secret, of the 4th instant, and to your letter of yesterday's date, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to request you to move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to give orders that Her Majesty's ship "Edinburgh" may be held in readiness at Gibraltar to proceed to Tangier on the receipt of a request to that effect from Her Majesty's Minister in that capital. I have further to request that measures may be taken to have an additional ship of war, as well as a gun-boat, in readiness at Gibraltar in case further assistance is required for the protection of British life and property at the various ports of Morocco.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE

No. 117.

*Mr. Scott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7, 5:45 P.M.)*

(No. 48.) *Berlin, October 7, 1887, 5:40 P.M.*  
(Telegraphic.)  
YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 99 of yesterday.

German Government has received no request for naval protection from their Representative in Morocco, and would find some difficulty in sending ships, as there are none available in Mediterranean.

In case of disturbance, Count Bismarck says German Government would be very grateful if Her Majesty's ships would also protect German interests.

No. 118.

*Sir J. Savile to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 7, 10:15 P.M.)*

(No. 49.) *Rome, October 7, 1887, 7:10 P.M.*  
(Telegraphic.)  
YOUR telegram No. 88.

Minister for Foreign Affairs states that orders have been already given for two ships of war to proceed to Tangier. Italian Consul and Commander instructed to co-operate with British colleagues.

No. 119.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1887.*  
I AM directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you herewith paraphrase of telegrams from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, received on the 6th and 6th instant, respecting the state of the Sultan's health.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE

*Inclosure in No. 119.*

*Paraphrase of Sir W. K. Green's Telegrams Nos. 15, 16, 17, and 18.*

SULTAN'S condition on the 1st instant reported at Moorish Court to be most serious. Moorish Ministers disheartened, already asking who is to succeed.

French Minister has telegraphed for two ships to be in readiness, one for Tangier, other for western ports. Presence of two British ships Gibraltar advisable. Spanish Government have detained iron-clad at Tangier, and will immediately reinforce Ceuta by 6,000 men in order to support successor designated by Sultan.

News, dated the 1st, received from Kaid McLean confirming critical state of Sultan. His brother Muli Ismail, Viceroy of Fez, will probably succeed.

French, Italian, and Spanish Ministers and myself have agreed to suggest to our Governments each to send swift gun-boats to protect Europeans in western ports.

No. 120.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)*

(No. 118.) *Madrid, October 6, 1887.*  
My Lord,  
WITH reference to my despatch No. 115, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that troops are being sent to the south of Spain, in order, if necessary, to dispatch them to that part of the coast of Africa where the Spanish possessions are situated.

The 1st and 2nd battalions of the Spanish Regiment the 53rd, known by the name of "Wad-Ras," and a battalion of the Regiment of Chasseurs of Segorbe, have already left Madrid.

The action thus taken by the Spanish Government in view of eventualities which might take place were the Sultan of Morocco to die has been very favourably received by the entire press of Madrid belonging to different shades of political opinion.

All the newspapers appear to agree in thinking that the steps taken by the Government are necessary, that Spain should not be taken by surprise, and that, at all hazards, Spanish possessions in Morocco must be defended, although they all condemn any policy of aggrandizement whilst admitting that no effort must be spared that "Spain should guard her own."

It is also understood that Spanish vessels of war will be sent to the Moorish coast.

I shall not fail to give your Lordship information with regard to everything I may learn on this subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 121.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)*

(No. 380.) *Paris, October 7, 1887.*  
My Lord,  
ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram of last night I informed M. Flourens that orders would be given for one or more of Her Majesty's ships to proceed to Tangier.  
[700]



and his Excellency told me that he had already sent orders to Count d'Aubigny to state that a French iron-clad and aviso would be put at the requisition of the French Representative in Morocco.

Beyond the news of the gravity of the Emperor's state he had no particular information of interest from Morocco, or with respect to the succession to the present Emperor.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 122.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 8.)*

(Confidential.)

Sir,

*Admiralty, October 7, 1887.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 6th instant, requesting that Her Majesty's ship "Edinburgh" may be held ready at Gibraltar to proceed to Tangier, and that another ship of war as well as a gun-boat may also be stationed at Gibraltar in case further assistance is required for the protection of British life and property at the various ports of Morocco, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to the Marquis of Salisbury that a telegram has been dispatched to the Commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean Station, who is now at Caltaro, to send from there Her Majesty's ship "Gannet" to Gibraltar.

I am to add that Her Majesty's ship "Edinburgh" has arrived at Gibraltar, and has been directed to await further orders there.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 123.

*Señor del Mazo to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8.)*

*16, Portland Place, London, le 8 Octobre, 1887*

LE Gouvernement Espagnol a accepté les indications de celui de la Grande-Bretagne faites par son Représentant à Madrid, et envoie deux navires de guerre l'un à Tanger et l'autre croiser la côte, pour protéger ses nationaux.

(Signed) C. DEL MAZO.

No. 124.

*Sir Clara Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8, 1 P.M.)*

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 16.

*Madrid, October 8, 1887, 10:55 A.M.*

Spanish Government fully agree with what Minister for Foreign Affairs calls this wise measure of Her Majesty's Government. A Spanish gun-boat will be sent to cruise between Tangier and Mogador, and another will be at hand on requisition of Spanish Minister at Tangier.

No. 125.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 8, 1:20 P.M.)*

(No. 19.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, October 8, 1887, 1:2 P.M.*

FRENCH Minister has received news from Mequinez of the 2nd that the Sultan was little better, and had consented to see the French doctor.

71

No. 126.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clara Ford.*

(No. 139. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 100, Confidential, of September 15, 1887: ante, No. 88.]

No. 127.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clara Ford.*

(No. 140. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of No. 68 to Sir W. K. Green, dated September 7; and M. Catalani's communiqué of September 15, 1887: ante, Nos. 78 and 79.]

No. 128.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 74. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of M. Catalani's communiqué of September 15, 1887: ante, No. 79.]

No. 129.

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 100, Confidential, of September 15, 1887: ante, No. 80.]

No. 130.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

(Secret.)

*Foreign Office, October 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Egerton's No. 880, Sir Clara Ford's No. 118, and paraphrases of telegrams from Sir Clara Ford No. 16, and Sir J. Savile No. 43: ante, Nos. 118, 120, 121, and 124.]

No. 131.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.*

(No. 101.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, October 9, 1887, 11:30 A.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 48.

Inform German Government that we shall have much pleasure in complying with their request.

No. 132.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Scott.*

(No. 463. Ext. 101.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 9, 1887.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 371 of the 7th instant, I have to request that you will inform the German Government that Her Majesty's Government will

have great pleasure in acceding to their wish that German interests in Morocco should be placed under the protection of the Commander of Her Majesty's naval forces in Moorish waters in case the Sultan's death should lead to disturbances.

I have communicated the substance of this despatch to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 138.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)*

(No. 105.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 3, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 101 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that five days ago I received a letter from Mequinez, dated the 21st September, stating that the Sultan's health was "improving daily."

In official circles here, however, an impression seems to prevail that His Shercofian Majesty is still dangerously ill.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 134.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)*

(No. 106. Confidential)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 3, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 103, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Mr Reed Lewis called on me this morning, and, after informing me that he had delayed until now in dispatching his note to the Sultan, as he had wished before sending it to learn of His Shercofian Majesty's recovery from his illness, he handed me the note itself for perusal.

It is conceived in most courteous terms towards the Sultan and his country, but complains of the want of respect generally shown to Mr. Reed Lewis by the local authorities since his arrival in Morocco, and demands that Hadj Mohammed Torres may be reprimanded by the Sultan, and ordered to treat Mr. Reed Lewis on a footing of equality with all other foreign Representatives.

The note then alludes to two cases, in which the Acting Commissioner for Foreign Affairs has been especially wanting in his conduct towards the United States' Consul, and which Mr. Reed Lewis requires shall be settled in accordance with his wishes. In default of this, the Consul States, Rear-Admiral Greer will return to Marroquise waters with his squadron, when permission will be solicited of the United States' Government to proceed to acts which can only result in hostilities between the two countries.

The note is signed and sealed by Mr. Reed Lewis simply, not bearing also the signature of the American Admiral, and though it is very firm in its language, it is not quite so peremptory in its tone as Mr. Reed Lewis had first led me to believe.

A special courier will start with the note this afternoon for Mequinez, and will be directed not to return except with a reply from the Sultan.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 135.

*Sir J. Sartle to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10.)*

(No. 252. Confidential.)

(Extract.)

Rome, October 7, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report that Signor Crispi returned to-day at noon to Rome from his visit to Friedrichruhe.

Soon after his return I communicated to his Excellency the purport of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

In reply, Signor Crispi informed me, as I have already had the honour of reporting by telegraph, that two Italian ships of war had already been ordered to proceed to Tangier, and that the naval commander and the Italian Consul at Tangier had been instructed to act in accord with their British colleagues. In the conversation which followed his Excellency added that Spain also would act with England and Italy in Morocco with the common object of defending the shores of the Mediterranean, and of preventing any territorial annexations.

No. 136.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 10, 10:30 p.m.)*

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, October 10, 1887, 8:10 p.m.

FRENCH Minister has received this afternoon letter of 5th reporting the Sultan to be progressing favourably, though he has not yet issued from his [? harem].

Another Spanish frigate has this evening entered this bay, though Spanish Minister told me this morning he would recommend recall to Spain of ship of war already here.

No. 137.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 10, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of No. 73 to Sir W. K. Green, dated October 8, 1887: ante, No. 110.]

No. 138.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)*

(No. 107. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 4, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, the return during the past night from Spain of Señor Dicedado in the iron-clad "Navarra."

My Spanish colleague called on me early this morning to ascertain if I had any late news of the state of the Sultan's health, as he had been hurried off from Madrid under the impression that His Shercofian Majesty's life was in imminent danger.

After supplying Señor Dicedado with the reassuring news which I had received from Mequinez under date of the 21st ultimo (see No. 105 of the 3rd October), he told me that the Spanish Government felt the Sultan's death might plunge this country into civil war through a struggle for the succession which might arise, public opinion having not yet clearly marked out who Mulai Hassan's successor should be.

Señor Dicedado added that during his absence this time in Europe he had obtained positive proofs of the existence of a French plan to secure the Marroquise Throne for the Shercof of Waxan. It had been on the point of being carried out in the time of M. Orlega, and was now only lying dormant until such an event as the death of Mulai Hassan would afford it a fair opportunity of being rapidly consummated.

Señor Dicedado having also stated to me that he had been occupied at Madrid with the question of the revision of the Convention regarding the foreign protection of Moorish subjects, I explained to him that I had been awaiting his return in order to carry out your Lordship's instructions on that matter (vide your Lordship's No. 63, Confidential, of the 22nd August, 1887, and my No. 93, Confidential, of the 5th ultimo). I then added that it was now perhaps unnecessary for us to discuss the question, as I understood that the Spanish Government had already brought it under the notice of the Governments of the Great Powers, with the exception of that of France.

I then alluded to a Moorish note, which I had learnt Señor Diosdado had carried with him to Madrid from Rabat, but the existence of which my Spanish colleague had thought it advisable not to mention to me in a direct manner. As, perhaps, it has not even been communicated to your Lordship by the Spanish Ambassador, I venture to transmit herewith a translation of it from the Italian, which I have obtained in a most confidential manner from Signor Naisa, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, who received it from Rome.

Señor Diosdado, with regard to making the revision of the Convention of Madrid a means of obtaining concessions from the Sultan in favour of commerce, replied to me frankly that he could not go with me. He said he had read at Madrid a report of a conversation on this subject between the Spanish Ambassador in London and one of the Under-Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs, which clearly marked out the wish of Her Majesty's Government to use the readiness to modify the rights of protection in Morocco as a means for procuring commercial advantages.

He had strongly combated this idea. Señor Diosdado said he had no other arguments to use in favour of his contention but the knowledge that the Sultan was determined not to bargain about the abolishment of protection, which must precede every, if any, concession calculated to increase Morocco's intercourse with abroad, and the conviction that a crisis in the existence of the Moorish Government is fast approaching.

My Spanish colleague said that there was no other policy which could be safely followed in Morocco but that of giving way without discussion to the wishes, even caprices, of the Sultan and his Ministers. It was the duty of Governments who wished to maintain the existence of the Moorish Empire to instruct their Representatives here, as regards foreigners who might consider Morocco a fair field for their enterprise, to temporize with such persons if possible, but in all cases not to assist them in ruffling the temper of Mulai Hassan and his people, who rather than allow foreigners to overrun their country had determined to cease to exist as an independent nation.

I have in the last three paragraphs condensed a conversation of upwards of an hour and-a-half, which I felt was intended to come home to me under the belief that I have ventured to depart from a traditional British policy in this country.

I assured Señor Diosdado there was nothing more to my taste than to sit quietly and do nothing, but that I was doubtful whether thereby the suicidal tendencies of the Sultan and his Government would disappear, or whether foreigners would cease to flock to this country, because otherwise an immediate crisis would arise in an antiquated state of things and society. I further pointed out to my colleague that though his views might be adopted by Her Majesty's Government, in the hope of preventing inopportune occurrences in this direction, we should be quite unable to control the actions of Governments whose interests were less tied up than our own with the maintenance of the independence and integrity of Morocco. There was already a question of coercive action on the part of the United States, and it was not at all improbable that Germany would resent some day the Sultan's persistent refusal to enter into commercial relations by Treaty with her.

Señor Diosdado did not answer my question, whether he thought under pressure from America or Germany the Sultan would stand by his asserted irrevocable decision to make no concessions to modern exigencies.

I was very careful to impress my Spanish colleague with my strong belief that Her Majesty's Government are most desirous that the Moorish Government should be maintained and strengthened, and that they do not accept the position that the day is at hand when this country will pass unavoidably into the possession of France.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 138.

*The Visier Muhammad-el-Mufaddal ben Muhammad Gharneet to Señor Diosdado.*

(Translation from the Italian.)

August 17, 1887.

YOU know that at the time of the Conference of Madrid the Plenipotentiary of the Sultan, Cid Muhammad Bargash, asked of the foreign Plenipotentiaries that the question of protection should be treated by them in accordance with justice and

Treaties. God did not allow this to be obtained at that time. It is well known that neither laws nor Treaties allow that a foreign nation should place under its own jurisdiction the subjects of another nation, because if this was possible and admitted, nations would lose their liberty, and their independence would be got rid of; and following such a system, which is opposed to the rights of nations and contrary to the justice which nations must observe towards each other, one nation would substitute itself for another, contrary to justice and without recourse to arms.

It was for this reason that the Sultan's Plenipotentiary went to Madrid demanding that this practice contrary to the laws should cease, and that he declared to the Plenipotentiaries that if the abuse were not suppressed we should find ourselves obliged to suspend commercial relations between us and other nations, and to close our ports with the object of defending ourselves, since self-defence is natural, and he who defends himself follows the legal course, there being nothing more valuable than independence. Happy is he who, though poor, lives free and not under the dependence of others.

And it is for this reason that when the Sultan consulted his subjects about the new commercial concessions which were demanded of him by the friendly German, French, and British nations, the said subjects gave a negative answer, and opposed them as they involved injury to themselves and to the Government, the protection implying a monopoly in favour of the protected subjects.

We therefore beg you as a friend, in the name of His Majesty the Sultan, to present to your Government these observations, and as it presided at the Conference of Madrid, we resort to it in order that it may treat this affair of the protections in a manner to remedy a state of things which is dangerous, and that it may obtain that the Plenipotentiaries should meet again in Madrid in order to modify the arrangement and give to the former Treaties their true and primitive signification as far as refers to protection.

No. 135\*

*Mr. Scott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11.)*

(No. 871. Ext. 48.)

My Lord,

Berlin, October 7, 1887

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, with reference to your telegram No. 99 of yesterday, the German Representative in Morocco has made no request for ships to his Government, and that there would be some difficulty in complying with such a request if it were made, as the German Government possess none available in the Mediterranean.

Count Bismarck tells me that should there be any disturbance, the German Government would be much obliged if Her Majesty's ships would likewise protect German interests.

I have reported the substance of the above to your Lordship by telegram to-day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 139.

*Mr. Scott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 11, 4.40 P.M.)*

(No. 50.)

(Telegraphic.)

Berlin, October 11, 1887, 4.20 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 101 of the 9th instant.

Prince Bismarck is much touched by your Lordship's prompt acquiescence in his request, and desires his best thanks [to be conveyed?].

No. 140.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 143. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 11, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of telegrams: Sir J. Savile's No. 48; Mr Scott's No. 48; No. 101 to ditto; Sir W. K. Green's Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20; and Nos. 16 and 17 to ditto: *sals*, Nos. 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 109, 117, 118, 125, 131, and 136.]

No. 141.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 11, 1887.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 8th instant respecting the present crisis in Morocco, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that a request has been made by the German Government that, in case of disturbances consequent upon the Sultan's death, German interests in that country might be placed under the protection of the Commander of Her Majesty's naval forces in Moorish waters, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin has been instructed to inform the German Government that Her Majesty's Government will have much pleasure in complying with their wish; and I am now to request that you will move their Lordships to give the necessary instructions accordingly.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEPOTE.

No. 142.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)*

(No. 108. Ext. 15.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 5, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I this morning called on my French colleague to ascertain from him if he had more recent news from the French officers at the Moorish Court concerning the Sultan's health than that transmitted to me by Kaïd Maclean on the 31st ultimo, and which reported His Sheressian Majesty's gradual recovery.

M. Féraud most kindly informed me that until yesterday his reports from Mequinez were in accordance with mine, but that a courier who had arrived late in the day yesterday had brought him letters, under date of the 1st, both from the French Colonel at Mequinez and from the Native Interpreter of the Legation, whom he had recently sent to the Moorish Court, stating that the Sultan had either had a relapse or that he never had got better, though three weeks ago he had shown himself for a few minutes mounted in State at one of the gates of the Sheressian Palace. They consider the failure of all the efforts of the Visiers to induce the Sultan to attend public prayers on Friday, the 30th, a most serious sign, for His Majesty must well know that his non-appearance might have disastrous results.

From the extracts read to me by M. Féraud I gathered that his correspondents entertained small hopes of the Sultan's recovery, the Native Interpreter even stating that Cid Enfadél Gharneet had discussed with him the question of His Majesty's

My French colleague expressed to me the hope that if a crisis should arise in this country all the foreign Representatives would be found acting in unison, by which means we might feel pretty confident of securing the safety of European lives and interests at the Moorish ports, though the interior should become a prey to faction and anarchy. With this intent, he said, he trusted I would follow his example, and ask that two British ships of war should be held ready to come to these waters at a moment's notice, one to remain at Tangier, and the other to keep a watch over the European communities at the western ports. Señor Diosdado had already accepted this view of the situation, and had detained in this port the Spanish iron-clad "Navarra," which had yesterday brought him back from Spain.

I have had the honour of telegraphing to-day the substance of the above to your Lordship.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 143.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12.)*

(No. 108. Most Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 5, 1887.*

SEÑOR DIOSDADO has just called on me and informed me, in a most confidential manner—for he says he has not the authority of Señor Moret to do so—that the Spanish Government will probably immediately reinforce the garrison of Ceuta by 8,000 men.

The Spanish Government, knowing that, should Mulai Hassan die, it is likely there will be several claimants to the succession, has decided only to acknowledge as lawful Sultan the person whom Mulai Hassan may have designated as his heir on his death-bed, and should a struggle arise between several claimants, to offer to that heir material aid through the troops held in readiness for that purpose at Ceuta.

This decision is, in other words, a determination to oppose by force of arms the expected French nominee for the Sheriff of Ceuta, the Sheriff of Wazan, who counts among some of his most powerful adherents the tribe of Angera, which occupies the mountainous district adjoining Ceuta.

The question of the Sultan's successor is, however, in my opinion, one not likely to need extraneous interference, unless, indeed, the Sheriff of Wazan is officially supported by the French Government. Mulai Hassan would probably designate as his successor his eldest son, a youth about 18 years of age, who would be rejected by the public owing to his age and to other personal disqualifications. At Fez the Sultan's brother, Mulai Ismail, who is living there, would be proclaimed. Mulai Othman, the Viceroy at Morocco city, would, in his turn, be declared Sultan there, and perhaps another member of the Sheressian family would be elected at Taffelt. A certain amount of confusion would arise, but as soon as it became clear which of the elected had secured the late Sovereign's treasure, and for which one the regular troops ("Askar") had declared (they would go with the possessor of the treasure), matters would quickly subside by the desertion from, or disappearance of, the less fortunate claimants.

I trust, consequently, that there will be no need for the Spanish Government to espouse any particular cause, and I feel sure that if the French Representative is closely kept by his colleagues to the understanding that the only duty of the foreign Representatives will be to watch over the safety of the lives and property of the European communities; if Mulai Hassan should die, the Moors of the interior will settle the matter of the succession with satisfactory rapidity.

It has been under these considerations that I have the more readily communicated to your Lordship M. Féraud's and Señor Diosdado's suggestions about the precautionary steps to be taken for protecting, through ships of war, the foreigners in Morocco. Collective action will prevent the undue assertion of particular policies and aspirations.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 144.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 12, 1:15 p.m.)*

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, October 12, 1887, 11:20 a.m.*

MOORISH Commissioner for Foreign Affairs states that Sultan is convalescent, and sees his Ministers for half-an-hour every day.

I think it would be prudent not to suspend precautionary measures until above is confirmed.



(No. 11.)

My Lord,

Tunis, October 6, 1887.

I HAD the honour, in my despatch No. 5 of the 27th June, to report to your Lordship the sudden suspension of the works for deepening the channel uniting the Lake of Bizerta with the sea. These have recently been resumed after they had been abandoned for three months. The inclosed sketch by Mr Maund, an English land-owner resident at Bizerta, shows the main features of the town and part of the lake with the channel which has been dredged. Naval engineers and seamen are now engaging in demolishing the central buttresses of the bridge crossing the channel at its junction with the lake, while the Department of "Ponts et Chaussées" is employed in making borings along the line where the new and broad channel is to communicate with the sea.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWICH.

Inclosure in No. 144.

*Sketch of the Town of Buxton and Part of the Lake.*

No. 145.

*Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received October 13.)*

(Confidential)

Mr.

Admiralty, October 12, 1987.

Admiralty, October 12, 1887.

WITH reference to your letters of the 10th and 11th instant respecting the crisis in Morocco, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will state to the Marquis of Salisbury that the following telegram has been sent to the Senior Naval Officer at Gibraltar:—

"If summoned by British Minister Tangier to render naval assistance for protection British interests consequent on death of Sultan or disturbances, act as necessary, and also protect German interests."

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

No. 140.

*The Margins of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 78.)

Hfr.

Foreign Office, October 18, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 73 of the 6th instant, I have been informed by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that a telegram has been dispatched to the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station, who is now at Cattaro, to send from there Her Majesty's ship "Gannet" to Gibraltar.

Their Lordships add that Her Majesty's ship "Edinburgh" has arrived at Gibraltar, and has been directed to await further orders there.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 147.

*Señor Moret to Señor del Mazo.---(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Señor del Mazo, October 14.)*

(Translation.)

(Circular.)

Sir,

Madrid, October 5, 1887.

THE attitude and conduct of the Government, in view of the information which was received eight days ago respecting the health of the Sultan of Morocco, have been

## B I Z E R T A.



- A. BRIDGE CUT PASSAGE OF 40 FT  
WIDE TO BE 4 METRES DEEP  
B NEW PROLONGED BREAKWATER  
FORMED OF CONCRETE BLOCKS  
C. PROPOSED CUTTING INTO LAKE  
'EXPERIMENTAL BORINGS HAVE BEEN  
MADE  
D SUP FOR MENDING 11 TORPEDO  
BOAT STATIONED OPPOSITE THIS  
E CUSTOM HOUSE  
F HARBOUR LIGHT (RED)  
BORINGS IN FATHOMS

E. A. Maund

interpreted in so many different ways as to necessitate my writing to your Excellency in order that you may be in a position to explain with the greatest exactness and precision, to the Government to which you are accredited, the proposals of the Government of the Queen Regent.

Our constant and great object with respect to Morocco is, above all things, to avoid a war, and as this would be impossible in the event of any aggression against Spanish possessions, we must necessarily adopt a firm and decided attitude in view of the disturbances which must unfortunately occur on the death of the Sultan.

I must at once state that the effect of the information in question was all the greater from the fact of its having been communicated officially to the Corps Diplomatique at Tangier by the Minister, Torres; an unusual circumstance, and one which, in the opinion of the Spanish Minister at Tangier, gave reason to fear that the announcement of the Sultan's illness would be followed by that of his death, in this contingency, which was unfortunately but too probable, and considering the likelihood of an immediate insurrection of the Kabiles of that Empire, so deficient in organization and so liable to be worked upon by influence both from within and from without, any want of foresight would have been unpatriotic, and any vacillation would have been most culpable.

The Government acted not only on the general knowledge of the condition of Morocco, which is in the possession of the whole world, but still more on its own information as to the state of that Empire, on which information it must rely in order to be able to provide for all future contingencies.

In the first place, the Government is aware that an extensive trade has been carried on in the district of Riff in fire-arms, projectiles, and munitions of war, in part from Malaga, but to a far larger extent from the port of Oran, so that those warlike tribes, which have never been thoroughly subject to the Sultan's rule, are armed in such a manner as to render them formidable antagonists in the event of war. This fact has long been known, and I have on more than one occasion mentioned it to successive French Ambassadors and pointed out to them the danger it involved in connection with the defence of the Algerian frontier.

The information above referred to acquires even greater value on taking into consideration the topographical situation of the country in the neighbourhood of our fortresses on the north coast of Africa and the continual intercourse which takes place between their civil and military population and the Kabiles in the vicinity; communications have indeed become so easy that the military Commanders of those fortresses have been obliged to make a parade of the forces they have under them in order to make the tribes in question see that any sudden attack or surprise is impossible, for were such a thing to take place, and were there at the time no regular Government in Morocco of whom to demand such satisfaction as would calm the feeling that would be aroused in this country, this feeling would force the Spanish Government to adopt a course which it considers most prejudicial to Spanish interests in Morocco, namely, to invade the Moorish territory and carry on war within the Sultan's dominions.

In addition to this consideration relating to our fortresses on the north coast of Africa, there is another not less important connected with the defence and protection of the Canary Islands, which, on account of their great distance from the Peninsula, would be seriously threatened and practically defenceless if any Foreign Power established itself on the western coast of Africa in the regions of Sagu and Nuni, whence the seas of the Canary Archipelago can be commanded. Unfortunately, such a contingency is not unlikely, seeing that the rebellious state of the tribes of that region obliged the Sultan to fight against them last year, and to punish them severely, and to be even now thinking of preparing a new expedition against them; such facts oblige us to consider the case of the rebels asking for foreign aid, which would give them a position of apparent independence, but would make them in reality the vassals of another Power, and instruments to be used for other objects. It is needless to point out the gravity of these events if anarchy were to supervene in Morocco.

Besides the two above-mentioned grave considerations, the Spanish Government, in shaping its present course of action, has not failed to give due weight to the opinion formed of the internal condition of Morocco. In times past the Sultan has had at his side Ministers who were a real Power in the country, and able to collect sufficient forces to insure the succession to the Throne in case it were disputed. But the present Sultan, Muley Hassan, has so centred in his own person all power and influence, that he has not in his surroundings any party, or any individuals, or any Chiefs with sufficient prestige to place a successor on the throne, or to carry out the Sultan's last wishes.

Lastly, in addition to these considerations there exists the state of disorganization and the feeling of distrust, which have been spread through the Empire by the question of protection and by the policy followed by Europe since the Conference of Madrid. Thus the leading men among the Arabs, and those of real influence with the army as being the representatives of the intelligence, the traditions and the strength of the country, have long looked with jealousy at the position occupied by foreigners, they accuse the Sultan of having allowed himself to be ruled by the influence of Europe, and deplore that Morocco should be gradually passing bit by bit into the power of the Christians to the detriment of the property, and of the wealth and influence of the true believers.

These considerations, and the experience of the past, all of which have their weight in this Department, are sufficient for a tolerably exact idea to be formed of the internal situation of the Empire, and for showing how well-founded is the fear that, unless the Sultan is succeeded immediately after his death by a Prince capable of keeping down anarchy, there will be very shortly a series of tragedies on the protected subjects that must entail most serious consequences.

It will thus be seen that the complication of affairs is such, and the necessity of applying to them a speedy remedy so great, that Spain was bound to show it at once by preparing to act, and by expressing the wish that her actions might awaken in other countries an equal desire to join in preventing such evils, and surely there is no more efficacious course than showing the Moorish people that Europe is ready to prevent disorder and bloodshed, especially if she shows, in doing so, that she is not impelled by any ideas of conquest or any schemes for imposing her dominion on Morocco, but solely by the just determination to preserve that country its political and territorial independence, without asking in return for anything beyond those measures of civilization and progress which the good of the Empire demand, and which can be conceded to Europe without impairing its own rights and those of its faith.

After making the above statement I need not repeat what your Excellency has long known, namely, that Spanish policy in Morocco is entirely opposed to any idea of territorial aggrandisement or of extension of her frontiers, and I had an opportunity of declaring to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, at a recent interview, Spain proclaims the *status quo*, both territorial and political, in Morocco, and is at the same time ready to join the other nations of Europe in demanding, or is prepared to take upon herself the initiative in demanding all such reforms as are called for by the interests of civilization, and can be conceded without prejudice to the beliefs and the manner of life of the Moorish people.

On reading these declarations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Government to which you are accredited, and in giving his Excellency a copy of it, should he wish for one, you will emphasize the principles which guide the action of the Government of the Regency, and which have now been so clearly laid down.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) S. MORET

No. 148.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)

(No. 110.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 8, 1887.

I VENTURE to submit to your Lordship the inclosed extracts from a letter recently received by me from Kaid Maclean, more as furnishing a clear insight into the curious ignorance which exists among the governing classes in Morocco, than as of importance as being connected with Mulai Hassan's present critical state of health.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

W. KIRBY GREEN

Inclosure in No. 148.

Kaid Maclean to Sir W. K. Green.

(Extract.)

Mequinez, September 22, 1887.

ON Tuesday\* one of the Sultan's sisters and one of his nephews died, and a Sherref called Mulai Sedduck died yesterday, and a good many people are dying in the town from the fever, and a great many are ill. The Sultan is much better, he had some great Moorish doctor to see him. This doctor told the Sultan he had some evil spirits, and until he got rid of them he would be ill, and ordered four very black chickens to be taken to a spring here called Ene Totto, and there have their throats cut, and the devils would see the blood and go there and leave His Sherrefian Majesty, and the Sultan would get well. This has actually been done.

Another learned man told His Sherrefian Majesty that the Basha of the town has turned all the inhabitants of Mequinez out of their houses for the Sultan's followers, and that these people are justly very angry and have been cursing the Sultan, and this has caused His Majesty to get ill, so the Sultan has ordered all his followers to be sent to the camp, and the people of Mequinez to have their houses returned.

Barley and wheat have gone up on account of the Sultan's being ill, and I think, if anything happened to him, Mequinez would be rather lively for Christians. We have sixteen sentries every night now, and yesterday three murdered men were found just outside our garden, and a Moor of the town told me, if I was not that the people of Mequinez are very fond of the Sultan, not a Christian would come here, that they would all get killed. I told him he was a fool, that at present his town was such a beastly place no Christian wanted to come, but if his town ever improved in trade he would soon see it full of Christians.

No. 149.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)*

(No. 111. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 6, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 100, Confidential, of the 15th ultimo, I have the honour to furnish herewith, for your Lordship's information, a further extract from a letter lately received by me from Kaid Maclean, describing the manner in which the men whom he instructs as disciplined soldiers for the Sultan desert, and are accepted in the ranks of the native troops in Algeria.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 149.

*Kaid Maclean to Sir W. K. Green.*

(Extract.)

Mequenez, September 22, 1887.

YESTERDAY on parade I missed some of the Harabas, and asked where they were, and hear they have all gone to the French frontier, and that directly they get there they get 30 dollars a-year and good clothes, &c. Now, the Sultan's soldiers only get about 1½ dollars a-month, clothes about once in two years, and nothing else but "haiks," so if this is true His Shercofian Majesty will lose a lot of his men.

About thirty or forty, I am told, are going away now every day, and this will go on until the French think they have enough, and then they will refuse to take them. I cannot, of course, tell if this is true. I only know a lot of the men desert every day. If this is true, it must pay the French to keep French officers to train men they know will eventually go over to them. I have seen several men who have returned, and they all speak well of their treatment; and I am told they are sent here to induce men to go back, and after their visits I always miss a lot of men. Nearly all the men trained in Gibraltar, and a man I taught myself to play the bugle, and who plays A 1, have gone too.

No. 150.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14.)*

(No. 112. Ext. 18.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 6, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that my Spanish and French colleagues requested me to meet them this morning at the Spanish Legation, in order that we might discuss together the line of conduct we ought to observe during the present critical state of affairs arising out of the dangerous condition of the Sultan's health.

M. Fernud and Señor Diosdado felt that it was most desirable that we should be understood by all to be acting in perfect accord together, and therefore wished that our views should reach our respective Governments conceived in very much the same

I told them that I was as anxious as themselves to act together, but that as I had already, yesterday, placed your Lordship, by telegraph, in possession of what we considered should be done to secure the safety of foreign lives and property at this and the western ports of Morocco, I trusted they would consider it sufficient if I merely telegraphed to your Lordship that I was acting in perfect accord with them and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, and did not repeat the exact words of the telegrams they proposed sending.

In fact, I must inform your Lordship that this accord has in a way been solicited by me, as I believe it is the best means of averting separate or independent action by some one of the Governments who may consider they have paramount interests in this country.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

W. KIRBY GREEN.



No. 151.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.\**

(No. 30.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, October 14, 1887, 5-35 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram received from Sir W. K. Green:—

[See No. 144.]

Her Majesty's Government agree, and hope for concurrence of Government to which you are accredited.

No. 152.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.†*

(No. 588. Ext. 30.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 14, 1887.*

I HAVE received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier a telegram stating that he is informed by the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Sultan of Morocco is convalescent, and receives his Ministers every day for half-an-hour. Sir W. K. Green is, however, of opinion, that it would not be prudent to relax the measures of precaution which are being taken until this statement is confirmed.

I have to state that Her Majesty's Government concur in this view, and trust that the French Government will do so likewise.

I have this day communicated to you, by telegraph, the substance of the foregoing.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 153.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14, 5-50 P.M.)*

(No. 17.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Paris, October 14, 1887, 5-10 P.M.*

LEARN indirectly that French Government offer to Spain complete liberty of action as regards Morocco.

No. 154.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 14, 6-50 P.M.)*

(No. 22.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, October 14, 1887, 4-35 P.M.*

LETTERS from MacLean, dated 10th, state Sultan did not show himself on Friday, though public crier indicated window of Palace where Sultan could be seen. His Majesty evidently still seriously ill.

No. 155.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Catalani.‡*

(Confidential.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

*Foreign Office, October 14, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,§ which fully explains the view taken by Her Majesty's Government regarding the question of foreign protection of Moorish subjects, and which I trust you will consider as the most convenient mode of answering your verbal inquiry on the subject.

\* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 102), Sir J. Savile (No. 67), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 161).

† Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 46), Sir J. Savile (No. 30), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 145).

‡ Add to M. del Maso.

§ No. 44.

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I have also communicated to the German and Spanish Representatives at this Court these instructions to Sir W. Kirby Green, in reply to a similar inquiry on their part.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 156.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to M. del Maso.*

M. le Ministre,

*Foreign Office, October 14, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to offer the following observations in reply to the verbal request made by you on the 29th ultimo to be informed of the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the reply of the Sultan of Morocco to the collective note of last March, in which he was invited by the Governments of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain to undertake not to make any further cessions of territory without previously taking their advice.

The Sultan passes over that proposal in silence, and makes a counter-proposal that the neutrality and integrity of his Empire should be guaranteed by the European Powers.

This last proposal is not one which commends itself to Her Majesty's Government.

They are of opinion that it would be imprudent to guarantee the neutrality of a country of which the institutions do not furnish some security that it is unlikely to take any course which would invite and justify hostile action on the part of other Powers. They consider that the political condition of Morocco renders it, on this account, undesirable to enter into the obligations which might result from such a guarantee.

At present, there appears to be no prospect of improvement in the condition of Morocco, and Her Majesty's Government think that His Moroccan Majesty should indicate what reforms in his administration are contemplated and likely to be carried out before his proposal for a guarantee of the neutrality and integrity of his Empire could be entertained.

Had Her Majesty's counter-proposal been to the effect that he would undertake to make no further cession of territory without the assent of the Great Powers, provided the latter entered into a Self-denying Agreement, such a proposal, in the view of Her Majesty's Government, would not have been open to objection on these grounds.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 157.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)*

(No. 113.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 6, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that news reached this yesterday of the sudden death the day before, at Caldas da Rainha, in Portugal, of Signor Scovasso, the Italian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in this country, who had gone to the baths there on a short leave of absence.

Herr von Saldern, the German Chargé d'Affaires, left Tangier last week, the newly-appointed German Minister-Resident in Morocco, M. Travers, being expected here shortly.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)*

(No. 114. Ext. 19.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 8, 1887*

I THIS morning had the honour of telegraphing to your Lordship that M. Feraud had received letters from Mequinez, under date of the 2nd instant, that Mulai Hassan was slightly better, and had consented to see Dr. Lenares, the medical man attached to the French Military Commission.

I afterwards ascertained from my French colleague that Dr. Lenares had been asked his advice as to the remedies that should be resorted to, but had not been allowed to see His Sherrefian Majesty.

Later in the day four mounted soldiers, bearing letters from the Moorish Court for Hadj Mohamed Torres, arrived in Tangier, and his Excellency has informed the foreign Representatives that he has received the announcement of the Sultan's convalescence, and that His Majesty had, further, been able to show himself to the public on the 5th instant.

I have thought it advisable to postpone telegraphing this news to your Lordship until it shall have been confirmed by less interested sources than the Moorish officials at the Sherrefian Court. It has often been found in Morocco that when a Sultan's recovery has been publicly celebrated under official direction, the Sovereign was already dead, and that his reported recovery was merely a subterfuge for gaining time in favour of some particular Sherrefian candidate.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 159.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15.)*

(No. 891. Ext. 17.)

My Lord,

*Paris, October 14, 1887.*

I HASTEN to inform your Lordship that I learn from a source on which I have reason to place reliance, that M. Flourens has caused the Spanish Government to be informed that France would leave Spain complete liberty of action as regards Morocco; and that the Spanish Government might do as they liked there, so far as France was concerned.

This policy of the French Government is dictated by the desire to detach Spain from understandings with Italy and Great Britain.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 160.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15, 6 P.M.)*

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Paris, October 15, 1887, 5-38 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 80.

M. Flourens concurs in maintaining precautionary measures Morocco. Moreover, his news received yesterday of Sultan's health is not favourable.

No. 161.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 15, 11 P.M.)*

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Madrid, October 15, 1887, 6-20 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 16.

Minister for Foreign Affairs entirely concurs in your Lordship's views.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 78. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 15, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's No. 118; No. 137 A, Confidential, to ditto; note to M. Catalani, dated October 4, No. 293 A, Confidential, to Mr. J. G. Kennedy; Mr. Egerton's No. 880; M. del Mazo's note of October 8; letter to Admiralty, dated October 11, Mr. Scott's No. 50, Telegraphic, ditto, No. 371, and No. 403, to ditto: ante, Nos. 94, 97, 98, 120, 121, 123, 132, 139\*, 139, and 141.]

No. 163.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford*

(No. 147. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 15, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's Nos. 102, 103, and 106, Confidential; Mr. Scott's Nos. 48 and 50, Telegraphic; ditto, No. 371; No. 403 to ditto; note to M. Catalani, dated October 4; letter to Admiralty, dated October 11, No. 293 A, Confidential, to Mr. Kennedy; and Mr. Egerton's No. 880: ante, Nos. 95, 96, 97, 98, 117, 121, 132, 134, 138\*, 139, and 141.]

No. 164

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West*

(No. 247 Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 15, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's No. 103, Confidential, of September 27; ditto, No. 106, Confidential, of October 3, 1887: ante, Nos. 96 and 134.]

No. 165.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 15, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Scott's No. 371 of October 17, 1887: ante, No. 138\*.]

No. 166.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

*Foreign Office, October 15, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of No. 588 to Mr. Egerton (and others), dated October 14, 1887: ante, No. 152.]

No. 167

*Mr. Scott to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)*

(No. 378. Ext. 50.)

My Lord,

*Berlin, October 11, 1887.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 101 of the 9th instant, instructing me to inform the German Government that the officers of Her Majesty's ships would be instructed to protect, in case of necessity, German lives and interests at Tangier, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have been requested by the

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Chancellor to express his best thanks to you, and to say that he is much touched by the prompt manner in which his request has been acquiesced in.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 168.

*Memorandum by Mr. White on Shuttleworth and Co. v. Pariente and Co., and Pariente and Co. v. Shuttleworth and Co.—(Received at the Foreign Office, October 17.)*

I HAVE no papers by me for reference, but to the best of my recollection the facts of the case are as follows:

The London firm of Shuttleworth and Co. had been trading for some years with Morocco, Mr. S. M. Pariente being their agent at Tangier when Mr. Bensaude, one of the members of the firm, went to Tangier and entered into a partnership with Mr. Pariente, of Tangier, and a Mr. Levy, of Fes, a native Jew under United States' protection, the new firm trading under the style of S. M. Pariente and Co., goods being sent out by Mr. Bensaude to Mr. Levy, through Mr. Pariente, for sale at Fes. This business was not successful, and some three years ago the firm of Shuttleworth and Co. sued the firm of Pariente and Co. for value of the goods sent by Mr. Bensaude. The claim was in due course brought by my predecessor, Mr. H. P. White, before the Moorish Minister, Hadj Mohammed Torres, and was, by mutual consent of all the parties, referred to arbitration, two Arbitrators being named by each side, and a formal submission being drawn up and signed by the parties.

By the unanimous decision of the four Arbitrators the claim was rejected, but Mr. Pariente and Mr. Levy were "to use their best endeavours" during a stated period of time to collect the outstanding debts.

Some months after the expiration of this period Mr. Cornwell, a member of the firm of Shuttleworth and Co., came to Tangier and applied to have the award set aside, but Hadj Mohammed Torres refused to entertain the application, and, under the circumstances of the case, I did not consider that I could properly support Messrs. Shuttleworth in insisting on a new trial.

Mr. Pariente then brought an action against Messrs. Shuttleworth and Co., claiming a certain sum as due as balance of accounts between that firm as principals and himself as agent. This case was heard by me with two Assessors, Mr. Cornwell appearing to defend the case, and Judgment was given for the plaintiff, but for a less sum than that claimed. Mr. Cornwell, however, left Tangier before the Judgment was enforced, and Mr. Pariente instituted an action in the High Court of Justice of England to recover payment of the amount of the Judgment. I have no information as to the result of that action.

(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Inverness, October 14, 1887.

No. 169.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)*

(No. 396. Ext. 18.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 15, 1887.

HAVING received your Lordship's telegram No. 80 of yesterday, I went to M. Flourens to-day and told him that though Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco had heard that the Sultan was convalescent, your Lordship was of opinion that the precautionary measures taken by the Governments should not be suspended until there was satisfactory confirmation of this news.

M. Flourens said that he thoroughly concurred in these views of Her Majesty's Government, the more so as he had yesterday received a telegram from the French Minister, M. Péraud, giving a very different account. This news was from Mequinez, the 8th instant,\* and represented the Sultan's state as inspiring grave apprehension, and that he had not seen his Ministers.

As regards precautionary measures, M. Flourens told me that in the case of the Sultan's death he had little doubt that there would be much bloodshed and anarchy.

\* Confirmed by Sir W. R. Green's telegram No. 52. MacLean reported on 10th that Sultan was then evidently seriously ill, and had not shown himself.—H. H.

Already, on account of disquieting news from Mogador, a French gun-vessel ("aviso") had been under orders to proceed to the west coast.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 170.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Foreign Office, October 17, 1887.

Sir, WITH reference to my letter of the 15th instant, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Lordship has received a further telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the subject of the Sultan of Morocco's illness.

It appears that Sir W. Kirby Green has received letters from Kaid Maclean, dated the 10th instant, which state that the Sultan did not show himself on Friday, the 7th instant, although the window of the Palace where His Sheressian Majesty could be seen was indicated by the public crier.

Sir W. Kirby Green considered, therefore, that His Sheressian Majesty was evidently still seriously ill.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 171.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)*

(No. 120. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 15, 1887.

AT a recent interview I held with Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, his Excellency spoke to me on the present state of the Morocco question.

His Excellency began by saying that there was no foundation whatever for the reports which had appeared in certain continental newspapers, such as the "Indépendance Belge," "Le Temps," and the English "Standard," to the effect that Spain and France had entered into a common understanding on the subject.

Señor Moret ascribed the authorship of these rumours to Mr. Houghton, an English gentleman resident at Madrid, and correspondent of the "Standard" and of the Belgian and French newspapers above mentioned; and Señor Moret asserted that Mr. Houghton derived his political inspirations from the French Embassy in this city. Señor Moret, nevertheless, informed me that a few days ago M. Belle, the French Chargé d'Affaires here, had called on him, and had sound of him as to some sort of accord ("acuerdo") being entered into between Spain and France, and that in making the proposition, the French Chargé d'Affaires had made the pertinent remark that he took it for granted that Spain found herself free to act in the matter, and was not encumbered by engagements on the subject with other Powers. To this remark and to the proposition as well, Señor Moret had given no direct reply, and as M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, is expected back here from Paris immediately, Señor Moret gave the French Chargé d'Affaires to understand that he should wait to hear what his chief had to say on the matter.

I inquired of Señor Moret whether he believed that the French Government had any inkling of the joint action which had been taken last year by Spain, Great Britain, and Italy in the affairs of Morocco, to which his Excellency replied that, as far as he was aware, the matter had never transpired. He said, however, that it was quite possible the suspicions of the French may have become aroused owing to the action he had taken in dispatching Spanish troops to Andalucía to be ready in case of need to strengthen Spanish possessions in North Africa, and that they may entertain the idea that a step of such significance would not have been taken by Spain unless she could count upon some powerful ally at her back.

Señor Moret likewise informed me that M. Belle had reminded him of the understanding which had been arrived at in the year 1884 between France and Spain as regarded the joint action in the affairs of Morocco, and that he had invoked that understanding as holding good at present for their guidance; but Señor Moret informed me that he had not hesitated to state to M. Belle that he did not consider Spain was

bound any longer by that understanding, inasmuch as it had never been faithfully adhered to by France. Señor Moret then spoke to me of the persistent intrigues for gaining a foothold which were carried on in Morocco by the French, and he informed me very confidentially that documents of a compromising nature had fallen into the hands of the Spanish Government which clearly proved that the French were actively engaged in gaining over to their side not only the tribes in the northern part of Morocco close to the Algerian frontier and also in the vicinity of Fingug, but also were carrying on active intrigues with the tribes of Sis and Nun. In short, Señor Moret's distrust of the French appeared to me to be extreme.

Señor Moret then spoke to me respecting a fresh Conference to be held at Madrid for the purpose of modifying that held in this capital in 1840, and he stated that he had, through the Representatives of Spain at the English, German, and Italian Courts, invited those countries to adhere to his suggestion that the Conference might be convened.

Señor Moret informed me that Germany and Italy had already signified their agreement to it, but that although some weeks had elapsed since Señor Mazo, the Spanish Minister in London, had been instructed to moot the subject to Her Majesty's Government, no reply had as yet been received from them on the matter; and Señor Moret expressed to me his desire that the least possible delay should take place in giving out.

As regarded the object and scope of the Conference, should it be convened, Señor Moret said that it would contemplate the removal of the great abuses which had taken place with regard to the protection of Moorish subjects by the Representatives of foreign Powers in Morocco; that the judicial status of foreigners would be put on a satisfactory footing, and that commercial facilities should be granted by Morocco to foreigners.

On my inquiring of Señor Moret whether he thought that France would agree to join in such a Conference, he replied that when he was recently in Paris, M. Flourens had paid him a visit at his hotel and had volunteered the remark that he would offer no objection to the meeting of a Conference such as the one now contemplated, and that he had plainly intimated that in his opinion the working of the 1840 Conference had led to such grave abuses that it ought to be modified. Señor Moret informed me at the same time that M. Flourens had assured him that he was most desirous of maintaining both territorially and politically the *status quo* at present existing in Morocco.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

P.S.—I have just heard that M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, arrived yesterday in Madrid.

P. C. F.

No. 172.

*Señor del Mazo to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18.)*

(Translation)

My Lord,

London, October 18, 1887

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the two notes which you had the goodness to address to me on the 14th instant, both relating to the question of Morocco, which fully answer the requests for information which, in the name of the Spanish Government, I had made in the conversations I had on that subject with the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, who represented your Lordship at the Foreign Office in your absence.

I have not failed to communicate these documents to the Government of His Majesty the King, and I avail, &c.

(Signed) C. DEL MAZO.

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No. 173.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18, 5.50 P.M.)*

(No. 23)

(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, October 18, 1887, 5.30 P.M.

LETTER by special courier from the Moorish coast, dated afternoon of the 14th, states Sultan attended public prayers that morning, and is evidently much better.

No. 174.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 18, 11 P.M.)*

(No. 19.)

(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, October 18, 1887, 7.45 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 18.\*

Rumour from Paris has no foundation. France, on the contrary, is trying to persuade Spain that she and France both alone ought to settle the Morocco question.

No. 175.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 19)*

(No. 115.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 10, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that M. Fernand has sent to let me know that he has this afternoon received letters from the French officers at Mequinez, dated the 5th instant, reporting the continued progress towards recovery of the Sultan, who, however, was still confined to his private apartments.

The Spanish Minister, whom I saw this morning, told me that he considered the reports current in the Moorish circles of the complete recovery of Mulai Hassan as worthy of credit, and that, therefore, he would telegraph to Madrid suggesting that there was no further need of the presence in Tangier Bay of the iron-clad "Navarra." I have been, consequently, somewhat surprised to find this evening, instead of the "Navarra" taking her departure, that her sister ship the "Castilla" has arrived here from Cadiz, and that the "Numancia" is announced as likely to join these two vessels shortly.

I have had the honour of communicating to your Lordship the substance of the foregoing information by telegraph.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 176.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)*

(No. 116.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 11, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Cassel, the Swedish Consul-General here, who has also charge of the Netherlands interests in this country, being obliged to absent himself from his post for six weeks on urgent private affairs, has requested me, with the sanction of the Swedish and Dutch Governments, to act for him during his absence.

I trust my compliance with M. Cassel's request will not meet with your Lordship's disapproval.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

\* Repeated telegram from Mr. Egerton, No. 17 (No. 153).

No. 177.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)*

(No. 117. Ext. 21.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 12, 1887.

I HAVE ventured to telegraph to your Lordship that though the Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs here asserts that the Sultan has completely recovered and is able to transact, for a short time each day, public business, I yet feel it would be prudent not to suspend whatever precautionary measures may have been ordered for affording protection in case of need to the foreign communities in Morocco until Mulai Hassan's recovery receives confirmation from undoubtedly independent sources.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 178.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)*

(No. 121. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 16, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I saw Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, last evening.

His Excellency informed me that on the previous day he had received a visit from M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, who had only arrived the same day from Paris.

Señor Moret informed me very confidentially of what had passed at the interview.

M. Cambon had, he said, on entering the room, conversed on subjects of no importance, but Señor Moret told me that he had felt certain that there was a *postscriptum* coming, which in due course arrived, for when the Ambassador had taken up his hat and was on the point of departure he exclaimed as if it were an after-thought, "Ah, à propos, Morocco—that is a question which Spain and France ought to manage exclusively between themselves, as it does not concern other Powers. We have an understanding on this subject, and we ought to act together. Were we to do so we might some day partition the Empire. You (Spain) could occupy the sea-board, and we (France) would take the interior."

I give your Lordship the words verbatim, as Señor Moret recounted to me this extraordinary avowal, which reminds me on a diminutive scale of what passed years ago at St. Petersburg in the famous conversation between the Emperor Nicholas and Sir Hamilton Seymour as to a proposal which was made by the former with regard to certain territorial acquisitions.

I inquired of Señor Moret how he had replied to M. Cambon, and he informed me that, as the interview had been of a very informal character, he had contented himself by answering in general terms, and that as the Ambassador was about to leave the room the subject could not be pursued further.

The cynicism of M. Cambon's remarks will not fail to strike your Lordship. They certainly display a remarkable indifference as to the rights and interests of other nations in the fate of Morocco apart from those of France and Spain. I have no reason whatever to anticipate that Señor Moret will accept any propositions which may be made to him seriously in the sense above indicated by M. Cambon, and the fact of Señor Moret's having confided to me what had passed at the interview in question appears to me to be a sufficient proof that his Excellency has nothing to hide from Her Majesty's Government in his treatment of the present state of affairs which has arisen in Morocco.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

91

No. 179.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 19.)*

(No. 393.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 18, 1887.

WITH reference to my No. 391 of the 14th instant, in which I reported that I had heard on excellent authority that France had let the Spanish Government understand that, so far as France was concerned, Spain was free to act as she pleased in Morocco, I should mention that while the language of M. Flourens to one of my colleagues respecting the troubles likely to take place in Morocco was much the same as that I alluded to in my No. 396 of the 15th instant. When pressed for an opinion respecting Spanish future action in Morocco, his Excellency said that he decidedly understood the policy of the Spanish Government was that of non-interference in the affairs of that country. Independently of other reasons, on financial grounds that Government was strongly opposed to undertake any action in Morocco, but, on the other hand, it was equally opposed to any other Power taking action or making acquisitions there.

Such being the policy of the Spanish Government, as described by M. Flourens, the French offer to Spain of a free hand in Morocco is deprived of much significance.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 180.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 21.)*

(No. 122. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 18, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I received a visit the evening before last from M. Cambon, the French Ambassador at this Court.

The object of his visit was merely a friendly one, and it was only when on the point of his taking his leave of me that he touched on any subject of a political nature.

As he was wishing me good-bye, he remarked that during his absence from Madrid he had found that the question of Morocco had created a great stir in this country, and that he had also observed from the tone of certain newspapers that France was credited with the idea of being on the eve of laying her hands on that Empire.

"I can assure you," said M. Cambon, "that nothing is further from her thoughts, and when I was lately in Paris," he said, "the question of Morocco had taken no hold on public opinion, but," he added, "if so much fuss ('tant de cas') is made about it, it will necessarily force itself upon public attention in France."

M. Cambon then said that the most extravagant rumours appeared to be abroad with regard to the attitude of France, and Señor Moret had even told him at the interview he had had with him the day of his arrival, that a report had reached him that the French had massed a corps d'armée of 50,000 men on the Algerian frontier in order to be prepared for any eventualities which might arise.

"There is not a word of truth in it," said M. Cambon. "The fact is," he continued, "Spain is interested in making the most out of this Morocco incident, which has been brought about by the sudden illness of the Sultan, and the Spanish Government are not indisposed to hold out hopes to their over-official army of the real prospect of a campaign."

M. Cambon then made to me the following revelation. He had been, he said, in the month of August last on a visit to Gibraltar, and had there seen (as he said, with his own eyes) in the distance opposite Tarifa, a small rock or island which, he said, was known by the name of Posilla (or some such name, for I could find it marked on any Map in my possession), and to which the Spanish Government had sent a Commission of Inspection some time ago with the view of measuring into the possibility of their being able to occupy it. M. Cambon stated to me that the rock or island lay about 19 kilom. apart from Tarifa, and that if a battery of heavy guns were to be established on it, their fire would cross with that of similar guns planted on a fort at Tarifa.

M. Cambon further informed me that on his return to Madrid he had mentioned



the subject to Señor Moret and had spoken to him about the Commission of Inquiry, and that Señor Moret had not denied the accuracy of what he had said.

M. Cambon, speaking of the meeting of a Conference at Madrid which had been so much talked of in the papers, said that he had no knowledge of the subject, and he inquired of me whether I could give him any information as to how the matter had been broached. I replied that, as far as I knew, the matter had occupied the mind of the Moorish Government for some time past, and that I had always understood that one of the objects the Moorish Embassy had in view, which arrived in Madrid in 1885, the day after the death of the late King, was to obtain, if possible, a meeting of a Conference to redress the abuses which experience had shown were practised under the Madrid Convention of 1880.

M. Cambon replied that from a four years' residence in Tunis he could well appreciate the inconvenience to the Sultan which would arise under such abuses, and that if they existed in Morocco to the extent complained of he thought they ought not to be tolerated.

I may inform your Lordship, in conclusion, that the newspapers in this city have been less occupied with the subject of Morocco since the impression has prevailed that the health of the Sultan is improving.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 181.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received October 21, 6.30 P.M.)

(No. 20.)  
(Telegraphic)

Madrid, October 21, 1887, 4.30 P.M.

I LEARN from a most trustworthy source that the German Government has notified to the Spanish Representative at Berlin that they are in accord with everything that may be done by the Italian and Austrian Governments in their treatment of the Morocco question. In other words, any Agreement concluded by Austria and Italy will be supported by Germany.

No. 182.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 150. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 21, 1887

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's No. 107, Confidential, of October 4; ditto, No. 109, Most Confidential, October 5; ditto, No. 111, Confidential, October 6; ditto, No. 23, Telegraphic, October 18; No. 76 to ditto, dated October 18; No. 295A to Mr. J. G. Kennedy, dated October 6; note to M. Catalan and Señor del Mazo, dated October 14; and note to Señor del Mazo, dated October 14, 1887: ante, Nos. 113, 139, 143, 146, 149, 155, 156, and 173.]

No. 183.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 161. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 21, 1887.

THE Spanish Minister at this Court has communicated to me a despatch from his Government, translation of which I enclose herewith for your information,\* in which they disclaim all wish of territorial aggrandizement, and explain their policy in regard to Morocco.

Señor del Mazo gave me to understand, in confidence, that his Government would not be sorry to see a Self-denying Agreement brought about among the Powers in connection with the proposed meeting of the Madrid Conference on Protection.

I further transmit the accompanying copy of an instruction which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin in connection with this question.†

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

\* No. 147

† No. 184.

No. 184.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet*

(No. 475. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 21, 1887.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for your information, the accompanying translation of a despatch communicated to me by the Spanish Minister at this Court,\* which has been addressed to him by his Government, in which they disclaim all desire of territorial aggrandizement and explain their policy in regard to Morocco.

Señor del Mazo gave me to understand, in confidence, that his Government would not be sorry to see a Self-denying Agreement with respect to Morocco brought about among the Powers in connection with the proposed meeting of the Madrid Conference on Protection.

I have to request your Excellency to inquire of the German Government whether they would associate themselves in an engagement of this nature, if proposed by Great Britain and accepted by France, Italy, and Spain.

The undertaking would be neither to annex nor to assume the administration of any part of Morocco without the assent of the rest of the Powers joining in the arrangement.

A joint Declaration or Agreement of this nature would probably facilitate the solution of the long-pending questions relating to commerce and the protection of natives in Morocco, and, at the same time, allay the disquietude of the Sultan and of the Powers respecting the integrity of his dominions.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 185.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received October 22.)

(No. 118. Ext. 22.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 14, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, extracts from a letter dated the 10th instant, just received by me from Knid MacLean, and from which I obtained the particulars concerning the Sultan's continued critical state of health, contained in my telegram to your Lordship of the present date.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 185

*Knid MacLean to Sir W. K. Green.*

(Extracts.)

Mequinez, October 10, 1887.

THE French doctor here was sent for by the Hajib to the Court, and went twice a-day to the Court (always being sent for). The Sultan got better, the Hajib said, but the doctor never saw the Sultan, although he asked to several times. About six days ago they stopped sending for the doctor without any reason and without telling him, and have not sent for him since. Everybody at the Court says the Sultan is better, but he did not go to mosque on Friday. One of his wives was buried the other day. When they brought the body out of the Palace a lot of people wanted to tear the clothes off to see if it was the Sultan. Some of his sons came out of the Palace and swore to the people that their father was well, so the people let the body (which they say was one of the Sultan's chief wives) pass.

Cid Fouad Gharneet saw the Sultan yesterday, and told me His Majesty is awfully weak, and can only just talk, and will not be fit for work for eight or ten days at least. A crier went through the town to-day and yesterday, and told the people where they could see the Sultan if they wanted to. The Sultan went to some part of his Palace, so that he could be seen from outside.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 119. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 14, 1887

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that my attention has been drawn by one of my colleagues to the rumours that prevail in native and other circles here of the occult working by French emissaries for a rising in Morocco against the present Government.

It is stated that many strangers have recently arrived in Tangier from Algeria who bear a military appearance, and who, whilst trying to enter into relations with natives, have seemingly no definite object in remaining in this country.

I have been assured that, at the same time, several of the most important manufacturers of arms at Liège have been asked by some Frenchmen, who represent themselves as belonging to the party of the Sherref of Wazan, to furnish them, upon credit, with 10,000 flint-lock muskets, which it is wished to introduce into Morocco through the Riff country and the Algerian borders, in expectation of a rising which is shortly to be effected in favour of the Sherref of Wazan by the Riffians.

I am not disposed to attach much importance to these rumours and assertions, considering them to be the natural outcome of the jealous manner in which Spain and France have acted with reference to the person of disorder that might arise in this country should Sultan Hassan die. Yet that persons, who are probably adventurers, are making use of the name of Morocco or of the Moorish Government in Europe, the following extract of a letter recently received by me from Captain Allan MacLennan, shortly after his arrival in England, is sufficient proof.

"I was shown a paper in the city yesterday (30th September), 'confidentially,' purporting to be a Concession granted by Sultan to French and Spanish Ministers at Tangier for a railway along coast from Ceuta to Oujda. I only just got a glance at it, so cannot give you particulars; but I am informed there is a man here on purpose to contract for steamers to carry railway material across from Europe. Its possibly bogus intelligence, though the man who informed me was General Fielding's Secretary."

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 187.

Sir C. Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 124. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, October 19, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 18 of the 17th instant, informing me that Her Majesty's Minister at Paris had been informed indirectly that the French Government had offered to leave to Spain complete liberty of action as regarded Morocco, I had the honour to reply last evening as follows—"Rumour from Paris has no foundation. France on the contrary is trying to persuade Spain that she and France, both alone, ought to settle the Morocco question."

No doubt Her Majesty's Minister in Paris had heard the news which he telegraphed to your Lordship from some person who was imbued with the contents of an article which appeared in the French paper, "Le Figaro." However, the information was entirely incorrect.

The policy of France as regards the Morocco question appears to be to entirely isolate other Powers except Spain and herself in any action in it; in short, not to treat it as an international question at all, but as one merely affecting Spanish and French interests.

M. Cambon's language to Señor Morot, as reported in my despatch No. 121 of the 16th instant, is a sufficient proof of the above statement.

The quick-witted Spaniards, however, who are attached to the press of this country, and who have obtained an insight of what is going on in official quarters, are clever enough to perceive that an union between Spain and France to act alone in the affairs of Morocco would result in proving an example of the iron and carthen-

ware pots travelling down the stream together, and that the latter, representing Spain, would soon get the bottom knocked out of her by the former.

An interesting article representing the above view was published on the 16th instant by the "Liberal," and I inclose a translation of it. It is entitled "The Snare," and is written to show that France would not be sorry to see Spain pursuing an active policy in Morocco on account of her (France's) hatred to Germany, but the writer very properly deprecates any adventurous steps being taken by Spain, whose true interests lie in the preservation of peace.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Extract from "El Liberal" of October 16, 1887

(Translation)

THE SNARE.—We will take into account, when it reaches our hands, the article which the French newspaper "Le Figaro" has devoted to Morocco with reference to Spain, or, we may also say, to Spain, with Morocco as the pretext. At present we have only a telegraphic extract of that article.

It will not be said that the French journal does not show itself friendly to us. It pays us compliments with no illiberal hand. It seems more Spanish than the Spaniards themselves. It flatters us by recognizing the fact that Spain has great interests in Morocco. But what a pity it is that, in saying so, it should have thought of us only in order that the above confession might have a greater appearance of sincerity.

It has not been able to forego the pleasure of informing us that this fact will not be very agreeable to the Germans, English, and Italians.

It is unfortunate for us that we have to count in Morocco, with the interests of England, Italy, and Germany, and it is a melancholy fact—as far as concerns the success of the promptings which the French journal addresses to us—that we do remember that such is the case, been so this remembrance will make us very prudent.

The mortification which "Le Figaro" seeks to inflict on the Germans, Italians, and English reveals sufficiently the game which is being played in thus enhancing the importance of Spanish interests in Morocco. But it does not stop at this manifestation of opinion, but assigns to Spain the right of intervention in Morocco under certain circumstances.

It even gives a plan of campaign already made out. We ought to declare war upon Morocco and seize Tetuan at once.

It is one thing to say a thing, and another to do it; as the French seized the capital of Prussia in 1870, when they were crying, "To Berlin! to Berlin!" Such things have only to be said, and forthwith they are realized. In the war of 1859 Spain learnt that only by saying "To Tetuan!" the gates of the city of our first fathers, the Moors, according to Darwin [sic], flew open.

Having once got inside Tetuan by magic arts we ought to take Fez, landing troops for the purpose on the Atlantic coast. In four days we could reach the capital of Morocco. With the same ease as Tetuan we should enter Fez, it would be a matter of four days. After this military promenade, just for our amusement, we would return to our homes, leaving a small detachment in a few Moorish towns, and meditate whether we should send Augustin or Capuchin friars to Morocco, to compete with Franciscans in the task of wresting the unbelieving Moors from the claws of the devil, to whom they belong from their birth. All this we should accomplish by sending about their business the Italians, the Germans, and the English.

But the French journal, which is unable to rein in its pen and say merely what is absolutely necessary, could not pass over in silence the fact that, since 1884, the German establishments in Morocco have progressed wonderfully, as they secretly receive State aid from the Berlin Government.

The French monomaniac hatred against Germany, sufficiently explained by the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine in 1870, would like enemies of Germany to spring up on every side, and it is this feeling which "Le Figaro" obeys in flattering our self-love, exaggerating our interests, and calling upon us to occupy Tetuan and Fez in four days, in despite of English, Germans, and Italians.

The French journal is in error. We understand the game it is playing. We are not so innocent as to fall into so badly laid a snare.

There can be no doubt that there are many persons amongst us who enthusiastically cherish the idea of conquest as a means of national aggrandizement, and who are certain that we should renew the glorious deeds of other times, but the conviction has also spread widely, that peace is an element of the first importance in the prosperity of a country and with the progress of instruction. A weighty mass of opinion has been formed which, when any adventurous project is mooted, inquires what right we have to seek dominion over our neighbour, and what are the means on which we count to attain this end, in harmony with the equity of the enterprise.

We must tell the French that every adventure to which they prompt us, where Germany stands in the way, will make us suspect that they wish to employ us as the instrument of their hatred against the enemy who holds them under his thumb.

We repeat that we are not so simple that we cannot see that they excite our warlike passions as conquerors, because it is of use to them as a means of satisfying their hatred.

No. 188.

*Sir Clara Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 22, 10.30 P.M.)*

(No. 21)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Madrid, October 22, 1897, 6.15 P.M.*

It has come to my knowledge very confidentially that the German, Austrian, and Italian Governments have been informed by the Spanish Representatives in those countries that Spain proposes to submit three points to France: (1) that the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco should be preserved; (2) that the Agreement between France and Spain of 1884 should be considered as at an end; and (3) that a new one should be made, to the effect that in case any event should take place in Morocco which should oblige either of those Powers to take a resolution on the subject, they should exchange views respecting it.

I hear that Germany and Austria agree to the three points, but that no reply has been received yet from Italy.

I am not aware whether Spanish Minister in London has spoken to your Lordship on the subject, or whether your Lordship has received from any other source information respecting it, but I should state that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has said nothing to me about it.

An extender will follow by safe opportunity.

Nos. 180 and 100.

(N.B.)

No. 191.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green*

(No. 79.)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 22, 1897*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 112 of the 6th instant extending your telegram of the same day, giving the substance of what passed at the meeting held at the Spanish Legation, at the invitation of your Spanish and French colleagues, to discuss the line of conduct to be observed during the present critical state of affairs in Morocco, and I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings, as reported therein.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 192.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green*

(No. 80. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 22, 1897.*

[Transmits copies of No. 293A to Mr. J. G. Kennedy, dated October 6; Admiralty letter, Confidential, of October 12, to M. Catalani and Señor del Mazo, dated October 14; and to Señor del Mazo, dated October 14, 1897 *ante*, Nos. 113, 145, 155, and 156.]

No. 193.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 81.)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 22, 1897.*

I APPROVE your compliance with M. Cassel's request that, with the sanction of the Swedish and Netherlands Governments, you should take charge of Swedish and Dutch interests in Morocco during his temporary absence from his post, as reported in your despatch No. 116 of the 11th instant.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 194.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty*

*Foreign Office, October 22, 1897.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 108 of October 5, 1897: *ante*, No. 142.]

No. 195.

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 22, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 111, Confidential, of October 6, 1887: ante, No. 149.]

No. 196.

*Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 24.)*

(No. 363.)

My Lord,

*Vienna, October 20, 1887.*

COUNT KÁLNOKY said a few words to me yesterday respecting the affairs of Morocco. His Excellency told me he was sending back the Austrian Representative, though he had no particular instructions to give him, except that in cases of emergency he was to shape his conduct as much as possible in conformity with that of his English, Italian, and Spanish colleagues. Austria had few, if any, subjects in Morocco, and had no special interests beyond that of wishing to see public order and tranquillity maintained throughout the Empire. It had not, therefore, been thought necessary to send any Austrian ship of war to the coast, though there were one or two cruising in Spanish waters, and within easy hail should their services be required.

Count Kálnoky added that he had received very satisfactory reports from Paris as to the conciliatory disposition of the French Government in Morocco affairs. His Excellency hears that M. Flourens has told the Spanish Government that France seeks no special object in Morocco, and that all that she cares about is the maintenance of the *status quo*, and that, should Spain have any particular interests to advocate, she need not apprehend any opposition on the part of France.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 197.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 151A. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 25, 1887.*

THE Spanish Minister at this Court called at the Foreign Office to-day, and stated that, in compliance with Señor Moret's request, you had transmitted to Her Majesty's Government certain proposals in regard to Morocco.

These proposals were, Señor del Mazo explained, as follows:—

1. That England should accept generally ("tout bonnement") the invitation to the Conference at Madrid.
2. That the invitation should limit the scope of the Conference to the demands made by the Sultan in his note to the Spanish Government of the 17th August last.
3. That, on the acceptance by the Powers of the invitation to the Conference, and before its meeting, Señor Moret would inform the Sultan that none of his demands would be granted unless His Majesty at the same time granted what has been asked of him, in order that his Plenipotentiaries should be furnished with instructions and powers to meet all eventualities.

4. Last, and most important, that the Resolutions of the Conference as to the abolition of the protection of natives by foreign Governments should be conditional on the Sultan's conceding what is asked of him.

Señor del Mazo went on to observe that the chief object was to get the Madrid Conference to reassemble to consider the proposals of the Sultan, as that would in all probability lead to a general self-denying engagement by the Powers regarding Morocco.

All the other Powers, he said, were willing to accept the invitation to the

\* No. 138

Conference, but the Spanish Government would not issue it until they were assured of its acceptance by Her Majesty's Government.  
Señor del Mazo begged for an early reply.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 198.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 26.)*

(No. 129. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, October 20, 1887.*

I SAW Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, this afternoon.

His Excellency informed me that he wished to speak to me with regard to the question of the proposed Conference to be convened at Madrid to reconsider the question of foreign protection of Moorish subjects. His Excellency said that he had received a despatch on the subject from the Spanish Representative in London, dated the 15th instant, in which Señor Mazo had inclosed a printed copy of your Lordship's despatch to Sir Kirby Green No. 63, Confidential, dated the 22nd August last, in which your Lordship had set forth your views with regard to certain preliminary steps which should be taken before Her Majesty's Government would consent to the Conference being held.

Señor Moret expressed to me his disappointment at the language which had been held by your Lordship, and he maintained that it would be impossible to bind the Sultan of Morocco to pledge himself to grant commercial facilities in return for the modifications which might be effected in the Madrid Convention of 1880.

Señor Moret said that Germany, Austria, and Italy were ready to agree to the meeting of the Conference, without exacting beforehand any such pledge. France, he said, had not as yet expressed any opinion on the subject; but Señor Moret confessed to me that he counted upon the support of Her Majesty's Government in this question, and he said that if France were to perceive that Her Majesty's Government wavered on the subject, she (France) would be only too happy to seize upon England's reluctance in the matter as an excuse to back out of it too.

Clearly stated, the point of difference between Her Majesty's Government and Señor Moret would appear to be as follows:—

Señor Moret is anxious to respond to the wish of the Sultan of Morocco that the Conference should be convened in order to reconsider the question of foreign protection of Moorish subjects without any preliminary promise being exacted from His Majesty as to the compensation to be given by him to foreign Powers in return for any benefits he might receive.

Her Majesty's Government, on the other hand, would appear to exact, as a condition to agreeing to the meeting of the Conference, that the Sultan should previously engage that he would afford commercial facilities to foreign countries.

Señor Moret explained to me that, in his opinion, the position of the Sultan in his own country was too weak to permit him to compromise himself so far, and that, so said Señor Moret, were it to transpire in Morocco that the meeting of the Conference was made conditional on the granting to foreigners of commercial facilities, the consequence might lead to trouble and even to revolution.

On my remarking to Señor Moret that it was hardly likely Her Majesty's Government would consent to relinquish so powerful a lever as a modification of the protection by foreigners of Moorish subjects, which would be a pure gain to Morocco in order to obtain in exchange what we required, namely, trade facilities, His Excellency replied that when once the Conference was agreed to and assembled the wishes of foreign Powers on the latter subject would flow as a natural consequence, and that it would be made clear to the Representatives of His Majesty's Government that in order to obtain the modifications he might desire with regard to the foreign protection of Moorish subjects, he would have to agree to the requirements made upon him with regard to trade facilities, in short, that the one question would be made dependent on the other.

Señor Moret then informed me that if Her Majesty's Government would agree to waive the point of preliminary steps to be taken as to pledges to be given by the Morocco Government previous to the meeting of the Conference, he would engage that the Moorish Government should be made thoroughly acquainted with the important

point of what would be expected of them in the event of the Conference meeting, and of their obtaining the modifications they seek for of the Madrid Convention of 1880.

In reporting to your Lordship the views entertained by Señor Moret on his becoming acquainted with the terms of your Lordship's despatch to Sir Kirby Green of the 22nd August last, your Lordship will perceive that his Excellency concurs in the opinion which was expressed by Señor Dicesado, and your Lordship will gather from my present despatch that, although Señor Moret is of the decided opinion that the Conference can only be conducted on the basis of mutual concessions, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to arrange a meeting of it should preliminary pledges be required of the Sultan.

I promised Señor Moret to report to your Lordship what he had said to me, and I shall await any instructions which your Lordship may think proper to give me on the subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 199.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir E. Malet.*

(No. 477)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 26, 1887.*

WITH reference to Mr Scott's despatch No. 357, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, I have to request your Excellency to read to Count Bismarck my note to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires of the 4th, my despatch to Mr Kennedy No. 293A of the 6th, and my despatch to your Excellency No. 475 of the 21st instant, which, I trust, will be the most convenient mode of explaining to his Excellency the views of Her Majesty's Government on the proposals that have been made relating to the neutrality and independence of Morocco.

I have also to request your Excellency to show to Count Bismarck my despatch to Sir W. K. Green No. 68 of the 22nd August, which is in accord with the suggestions made to Mr. Scott by Count Bismarck regarding the protection of Moorish subjects by foreign Governments.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 200.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 82. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 26, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Señor Moret's note to Señor del Mazo (communicated October 14); Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 120 and 121, Confidential, of October 15 and 16, and Mr. Egerton's No. 398 of October 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 147, 171, 178, and 179.]

No. 201.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 182.)

*Foreign Office, October 26, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Mr. Egerton's No. 398 of October 18, 1887: *ante*, No. 179.]

No. 202.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27)*

(No. 120. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 16, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Signor Maissa, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, recently informed me that he had been instructed from Rome to

conform his conduct in matters arising out of the present critical state of the Sultan's health as much as possible with that observed by the British Representative. On his inquiries, therefore, I had no hesitation in explaining to him that I had abstained from summoning to Tangier Her Majesty's ship "Edinburgh" from Gibraltar, as I felt there was no immediate need to mark the want of confidence that existed in the stability of the Moorish Government and efficiency of its authorities should Sultan Mulai Hassan unfortunately die; and that I thought he, too, would do well, if possible, to keep the Italian men-of-war that were on their way to these waters out of sight, though within call, at Gibraltar.

To-day Signor Maissa has again called on me, and informed me of the arrival at Gibraltar of the Italian iron-clad "Affondatore," which he has, in accordance with my suggestion, directed to remain there for the present.

Several influential Moors of this place have expressed to me their fears that a sudden descent of men might be made from the French and Spanish ships of war in this bay.

On being reassured by me on this matter, they have agreed with me that the Sultan, should he recover, will know how to appreciate the proceedings of those who have shown the greatest regard for his feelings by not making too evident to his people the readiness which apparently exists abroad to interfere in Moorish affairs.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 203.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)*

(No. 121)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 17, 1887*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that M. Fernud yesterday dispatched the French steam-sloop "D'Estrées" to the western ports, in order to reassure the foreign communities there as to their safety having been duly considered, should a period of disturbance arise in Morocco in the event of Mulai Hassan's death.

I had already by an earlier opportunity sent a Circular to the British Consular officers apprising them of the measures which had been taken for keeping a proper watch over the western ports, should the need arise for so doing, and I therefore merely referred them by a further Circular sent by the "D'Estrées" to the one first written to them.

My Spanish and Italian colleagues agree with me that though M. Fernud has thought proper to send the French sloop on her present cruise, it will not be necessary that any of the other vessels of war placed at our disposal should follow the "D'Estrées," unless more disquieting news than exists at present should reach us.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 204.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)*

(No. 122. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 18, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that I to-day, whilst calling on Señor Dicesado, mentioned to him that there were persons in London who asserted they were holders of a Concession granted by the Sultan of Morocco to the Spanish and French Representatives in this country for the construction of a railway from Ceuta to Oran (*vide* last paragraph of No. 119, Confidential, of the 14th instant).

Señor Dicesado said to me, in reply, that he knew absolutely nothing of any Concession for the construction of a railway in Morocco, and that if his name was being used in the city in the manner described, the persons so using it must be adventurers.

Señor Dicesado, however, added that he has several times, since he has been



Spanish Representative here, had occasion to renew a demand to the Moorish Government, originally made by Señor Merry (Count Benomar), for a Concession to the Spanish Government to construct a railway from Ceuta to Tetuan, Alcazar, Larache, and Tangier. This demand, Señor Drosado explained, was not put forward with the expectation of having it accorded by the Sultan, but, on the contrary, in order to furnish His Majesty with a fair excuse for refusing to grant to others, who might bid for them in a more *bona fide* manner, advantages which had been denied to Spain.

It is thus that the Spanish Government, through its Representatives here, carefully takes steps to block all attempts that may be made from abroad to benefit this country.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 205.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 27.)*

(No. 132)  
My Lord,

Madrid, October 24, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Señor Cánovas, the Head of the Conservative party in Spain, and who has within the last few days returned to this capital after a lengthened absence abroad, delivered a speech yesterday at the Conservative Club in Madrid to a large gathering of his party.

It will interest your Lordship to learn what he said on the Morocco question, and I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of the observations he made on the subject, as published in the Madrid morning papers.

Señor Cánovas criticizes rather severely the action which has been taken by the present Liberal Government in the matter.

He maintains that the Spanish Government are not in a condition to pursue a warlike policy in Morocco; that no note of alarm had proceeded from that country sufficient to warrant the step which has been taken by the Spanish Government, namely, that of dispatching troops to the south of Spain with a view of augmenting the garrisons in the Spanish possessions in North Africa. At any rate, said Señor Cánovas, if the garrisons had to be strengthened, it could have been done without such a display of martial ardour. In his opinion, Spain should not interfere in Morocco, either on her own account or on that of Europe, and he thought that, when it was a question of sending soldiers to that country, it would better befit Spain to play a modest part, and not expose herself to humiliation by seeing more powerful nations handle the matter and put her into the background.

Señor Cánovas considered that the Government had acted unwisely in raising a question which was lying dormant, and which was one calculated to arouse European interest.

Señor Cánovas concluded his remarks by deprecating interference in Morocco on pecuniary grounds, and pointed to England's policy in Egypt, which, he said, had entailed so great an expense.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 205.

*Extract of a Speech delivered by Señor Cánovas del Castillo, Sunday, October 23, 1887, at the Conservative Club, relative to Morocco.*

(Translation.)

I HAVE never restrained my friends who have struggled for principles, in their defence none have excelled us. What we do not desire is a boxing match inspired by small passions or by the mean satisfaction which originates in self-love.

This does not mean that we ought to omit to censure those acts of the Government which are opposed to our principles. If this were not a rule of conduct with us, might we not have passed over in silence the question of Morocco? The Spanish nation is not in a condition to carry out a warlike policy in Morocco, and, even if we had a right to be so, it would not suit our interests that such should be the case. What advantage is there in stirring up the thunders of war?

Even if this question is looked at from a purely practical point of view, Spain is not in a condition, even if permission were granted to her, to carry out a warlike policy in Morocco. When European peace and order are the objects of our consideration, and when this question is under discussion, Spain is the first Power interested; but when it is a question of fighting battles, we must of necessity be one of the last of Powers.

The concentration of foreign forces near our coasts can only be a source of humiliation to us.

Even if it were merely a question of strengthening our fortresses, it might have been carried out in the manner in which such measures are necessarily taken, without making a show of warlike preparation. Our policy can be modified by circumstances, but it is not wise to anticipate them. A most dangerous idea has been started, viz., that we ought to intervene with a view to putting down civil war, should it break out. Neither on our own account, nor on that of Europe, ought we to make any approach towards intervention. Who are we going to save? Who have we to protect? Are we to be intrusted with the duty of guarding ports threatened by civil war? All that we can do is to offer them such services on our part as do not cost money. To raise questions which deal with the protection of the interests of the occupation itself would be doubly painful to the Spanish people.

The intervention would cost us as much as a conquest; for example: what does England's intervention in Egypt cost that Power? And, on the other hand, what are the interests of our countrymen we are going to defend in that country (Morocco)?

I find that, in addition to this serious question, there is another no less serious; I mean the question of the projects of military reforms; and as the party in power is ignorant of the situation of the country, it is not strange that they should be thinking of nothing but the conquest of Morocco, and of forming great armies, when the state of our finances does not permit it, nor the public opinion of the country demand it. The party in power ignores our weakness, and does not heed the voice of sad reality.

Who thinks, I ask, that such an organization is necessary? Who is there in Europe who is going to attack us, when all have to defend themselves? Who is going to seek enemies when we all have enough and to spare? But are the present circumstances in which Europe is placed going to last for ever? Certainly not. Whenever the present equilibrium is altered who knows if France even, a Power which has no aspirations of conquest at present, may have them then? Who knows if this country would not have her limits then close to Ceuta and Melilla? Who is likely to attack us down there, when the Pyrenees are open to attack and without defences? (Cheers.) It is there where the invasion of Morocco will begin in case a conflict arises.

No. 206.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 83.)  
Sir,

Foreign Office, October 27, 1887.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from Messrs. Shuttleworth and Co., requesting diplomatic intervention on their behalf, to enable them to recover the sum of 454/ 17s 3d from Mr. Solomon Pariente, a native of Morocco, said to be under British protection, but who, it appears, now claims Danish protection.\*

I also forward to you a copy of a Memorandum drawn up by Her Majesty's Consul at Tangier, now on leave in this country, to whom the matter was in the first instance referred;† as there seems to be some uncertainty as to the real facts of the case, I have to request you to furnish me with a report upon Messrs. Shuttleworth's complaint.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 84. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 27, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Egerton's No. 396 of October 15; Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 122 and 124, Confidential, of October 18 and 19; No. 151 to ditto, dated October 21; and No. 475 to Sir E. Malet, dated October 21, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 169, 180, 183, 184, and 187.]

No. 208.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Vane.*

(No. 134. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 27, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 119, Confidential, of October 14, 1887. *ante*, No. 186.]

No. 209.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 153. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 27, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Mr. Egerton's No. 396 of October 15; Sir W. K. Green's Nos. 112 and 118 of October 8 and 14; No. 119, Confidential, of October 14; and No. 79 to ditto, dated October 22, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 150, 169, 185, 186, and 191.]

No. 210.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, October 27, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's No. 112 of October 8; and No. 79 to ditto, dated October 22, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 150 and 191.]

No. 211.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)*

(No. 123. Ext. 23.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 18, 1887.*

I HAVE this day had the honour of reporting to your Lordship, by telegraph, that letters to-day received by me from Kaid Maclean commence on the 12th by saying, "I really think the Sultan is beginning to get better," and end on the 14th with the announcement that that morning (Friday) the Sultan had attended the public noonday prayers at the mosque.

Kaid Maclean, however, adds that sight must not be lost of the fact that the Sultan is a Moor, and that, therefore, it is quite possible he may bring about a serious relapse of his illness by over-feeding

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 28.)*

(No. 124.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 20, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 103 and 106, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo and the 3rd instant respectively, I have the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Mr. Reed Lewis, the United States' Consul, called on me in the afternoon of the day before yesterday and stated that he had just been grossly insulted by Cid El Hadj Mohamed Torres, the Acting Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, so that he had been obliged to telegraph at once to Rear-Admiral Greer for his support, and to decide upon sending early the next morning his Vice-Consul to Mequinez with a demand for immediate reparation from the Sultan.

Mr. Reed Lewis then went on to explain to me that, having recently received a very consultative reply from Cid Enfadat Charaet to the note which he had addressed to the Sultan complaining of the unsatisfactory conduct of the Acting Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, he had called on the latter with the hope of finding him better disposed towards him (Mr. Reed Lewis) than heretofore, but instead Hadj Mohamed Torres had persisted in his former action with regard to the question which was in treaty between them, and had furthermore intimated his wish that Mr. Reed Lewis should leave him alone, and transact his affairs direct with the Court at Mequinez.

On the United States' Consul replying to my inquiry that he would feel grateful to me if I could in any way bring about explanations between him and Hadj Mohamed Torres which would enable him to suspend the proceedings already commenced, I, on Mr. Reed Lewis' departure, sent a message to the Acting Commissioner, strongly urging him to avoid, if possible, that the Sultan should be troubled just as he was recovering from a dangerous illness with the consideration of unexpected and serious misunderstandings with the Representative of the United States of America.

Cid El Hadj Mohamed Torres, whilst admitting the desirableness of stretching conciliation to the utmost, sent to inform me that the language interpreted to him as having been addressed to him by the Consul was of so gross a nature that he felt I would approve of his having energetically resented it. Nevertheless, if, after being apprised of it, I was still of opinion that he should overlook it, he was prepared to meet Mr. Reed Lewis at my house, and allow me to endeavour to bring about an understanding between them.

It is unnecessary that I should here repeat to your Lordship the insulting language that Mr. Reed Lewis' interpreter spoke as coming from his chief. I at once called on the Consul, and informed him that, unless he was prepared to explain to the Moorish Acting Commissioner that the interpreter had been inexact in rendering his words, I could not assume the task of a peace-maker.

Mr. Reed Lewis having unhesitatingly repudiated the language attributed to him by his Dragoman, a meeting took place this morning between him and Hadj Mohamed Torres in this house, when the latter, on being assured by the former that a misapprehension had been caused the day before through the incompetence of the interpreter, retracted all offensive retorts which he had been led into making towards the United States' Consul.

A long discussion, lasting upwards of two hours, ensued, in which I was the only intermediary, regarding the question which had proved the cause of endless misunderstandings between the two officials, and of Mr. Reed Lewis' appeal for the support of Admiral Greer's squadron. I am happy to state that at the end of the discussion Cid El Hadj Mohamed Torres and the United States' Representative left this Legation under engagements towards each other which have since been faithfully carried out by both, and which, I trust, have restored in a permanent manner amicable relations between the two authorities.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 213.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 19.)  
(Telegraphic)

*Foreign Office, October 28, 1887, 7-10 P.M.*

YOUR despatch No. 129 of the 20th October.  
We are willing to join proposed Conference in deference to wish of Spanish Government, but it must be with a wide reference. We suggest that Conference should meet to consider to what extent and on what conditions the Powers can accede to the wishes expressed by the Sultan and his Commissioners relative to protection of natives and neutralization of his dominion.

No. 214.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford*

(No. 154.)

*Foreign Office, October 28, 1887*

[Transmits copy of Sir A. Paget's No. 363 of October 20, 1887: ante, No. 196.]

No. 215.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 155. Ext. 19.)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 28, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 129, Confidential, of the 20th instant, reporting the substance of a communication made to you by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to Morocco.

I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to join the proposed Conference at Madrid in deference to the wish expressed by the Spanish Government, but it must be with a wide reference.

Her Majesty's Government would suggest that the Conference should assemble to consider to what extent and on what conditions the Powers may be able to assent to the wishes expressed by the Sultan of Morocco in his communications regarding the protection of Moorish subjects by foreign Governments and the neutralization of His Majesty's dominions.

The substance of the foregoing was this day sent to you by telegraph.

An answer to the same effect has been returned to Señor del Mazo's communication, which was recorded in my despatch to you No. 151 A of the 28th instant.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 216.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 85.)

*Foreign Office, October 28, 1887*

[Transmits copy of Sir A. Paget's No. 363 of October 20, 1887: ante, No. 196.]

No. 217.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 28, 1887.*

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch, as marked in the margin,\* relating to the precautionary measures taken by the French Government, in view of the reported serious state of health of the Sultan of Morocco.

\* No. 169.

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In laying this letter before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I am to request that you will inform their Lordships that the Spanish Government concur in the decision not to relax precautions.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 218.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 20.)*

(No. 181. Confidential. Ext. 21.)  
My Lord,

*Madrid, October 22, 1887.*

IT has come to my knowledge that a short time ago Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, dispatched a special messenger to Count Benomar, the Spanish Representative at Berlin, with an important despatch to be communicated to the German Government on the subject of the language which was held by M. Cambon, the French Ambassador at Madrid, on the 11th instant, reported in my No. 121, Confidential, of the 6th October, and of the present relations generally between the French and Spanish Governments on the question of Morocco.

As Spain appears to be just at present on terms of such intimacy with the German, Austrian, and Italian Governments, I was not surprised to learn that such confidential communications had been made to them, ignorant as I am of the fact whether Señor Mazo, the Spanish Representative in London, has been instructed to make any communication of a similar nature to your Lordship or not.

As far as I can ascertain, the messenger who was sent to Berlin was to visit Vienna and Rome also, charged with despatches on the same subject to the Spanish Representatives at those places.

The communication in question was to the following effect: that the Spanish Government proposed submitting three points to the consideration of the French Government.

The 1st, to the effect that the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco should be preserved.

2. That the agreement which had been come to in the year 1884 between France and Spain relative to the affairs of Morocco should be considered at an end; and

3. That that agreement should be replaced by another, to the effect that in future, should any event take place in Morocco which should oblige either of the Contracting Parties to take any resolution regarding it, such resolution should be communicated to their respective Governments in order to lead to an exchange of views on the subject.

I have been informed from a trustworthy source that Señor Moret's despatch having been duly received at Berlin, Count Benomar has been informed by Count Herbert Bismarck that the German Government cordially agrees to the above-mentioned three points.

A similar reply has been received from the Austrian Government; but I am unable to find out whether any answer has been received from Italy. I am inclined to think that up to the present none has, which fact may be accounted for by the messenger who carried the despatch for the Spanish Representative at Rome not having arrived there yet.

I shall be anxious to learn whether Señor Mazo has made any communication to your Lordship on this subject, and if not, why England has been excluded from being made the recipient of views which are imparted only to Germany, Austria, and Italy, considering the very friendly relations which exist at present between Great Britain and Spain.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 219.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)*

(No. 424. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 28, 1887.

WITH reference to Sir F. Clare Ford's No. 120, Confidential, of the 15th instant, I gather from the account which one of my colleagues has given me, confidentially, of the language of M. Flourens two days ago in allusion to the question of France joining a Conference to modify the previous Madrid arrangement, and to put the protection question in Morocco on a better footing, that the French Government are by no means inclined blindly to accept an invitation to attend a Conference on the subject, but would require to be satisfied that the proposed discussion should not extend to ground on which they would not be willing to make concessions.

This your Lordship will observe is second-hand information only, as I have not alluded to the question myself in conversation with M. Flourens, and should only do so if instructed by your Lordship.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 220.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 29.)*

(No. 425. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 28, 1887.

WITH reference to Sir F. Clare Ford's despatch No. 121, Confidential, of the 16th October, 1887, giving Señor Moret's account of the French Ambassador's proposals to him respecting Morocco, I have to report that I have also learnt from one of my colleagues that the French Government have not been successful at Madrid in their advances to Spain.

With reference to the despatch above alluded to, I cannot disguise my astonishment at M. Cambon's reported language, which is certainly not in conformity with that which I am informed that M. Flourens has held here, and rather than believe that M. Flourens, who strikes me as very straightforward, has acted so foolishly and deceitfully, I think it more likely, while he allowed the French Representative to say that France would support Spain in taking the course she pleased as regards Morocco, that he might possibly, but not probably, have suggested in return some advantages for France on the Algerian frontier, and that M. Cambon should have on his own account invented or exaggerated the French counter-demand, as represented by M. Moret.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 220\*.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.\**

(Secret.)

Foreign Office, October 29, 1887.

[Transmits extract from Sir Clare Ford's No. 122, Confidential, of October 18, 1887: ante, No. 180.]

No. 221.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)*

(No. 128.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 21, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Consular Agent at Tetuan reports to me that great preparations are being made at Ceuta for the reception from Spain of a large military force. A steamer arrived there on the 14th instant, and

\* Also to War Office and Admiralty.

landed 350 tents and other camp equipage. It is now reported that a camp has been pitched on the extreme limits of the Spanish lines of Ceuta, a measure which has somewhat alarmed the Moorish population of the neighbourhood.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 222.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)*

(No. 127. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 23, 1887.

THE French Minister, M. Féraud, informed me this afternoon that, if in the course of the coming week satisfactory news of the Sultan's health is received, he will start at once for the Moorish Court at Mequinez.

M. Féraud said he had lately been the butt for the spite and malevolence of a large portion of the Paris press.

The recent murder of Commandant Schmitt at the hands of the Azamour tribe had been eagerly seized upon by it as a proof of his (M. Féraud's) inefficient protection of Frenchmen and French interests in this country; he had therefore determined to go to the Moorish Court, to there collect evidence, which he knew to exist, of Commandant Schmitt having been the victim of his own rashness, and not of an infamous plot of the Court officials.

M. Féraud also intends to bring with him to Tangier the body of the unfortunate officer for transmission to France.

I understand, from independent sources, that the French Minister, under superior orders, has demanded an indemnity from the Sultan for Commandant Schmitt's family of 20,000 dollars (4,000*l.*); and, though the Moorish Government has appealed to its protests on previous occasions when the officers forming the French Military Commission insisted upon accompanying His Sheressian Majesty on his expeditions against rebel tribes, and has now furthermore requested the recall of the officers, M. Féraud has received orders to press for the indemnity and to decline to withdraw the Military Commission.

The French Minister declares that it is most painful for him to have to act in a manner which imparts a responsibility by the Moorish Government of which, in truth, it was free, and it is solely on this account that he is determined to investigate personally, on the spot, everything connected with the matter, and thus be ready to meet at every point the unscrupulous assertions of the Paris journals.

I would, however, venture to remark to your Lordship that, whilst my French colleague is giving such prominence to the object of his coming journey to Mequinez, it is not at all improbable that he will treat with the Sultan on the question raised by the Spanish Government as to the reassembling of the Madrid Conference concerning the foreign protection of Moors, and also about the Sultan's proposal for the centralization of the Moorish Empire, which I observe has been permitted in some manner to leak out in the foreign press.

The impression left on my mind through my intercourse with Mulai Hassan and his Government of the past year is that His Sheressian Majesty is quite capable, under undefined and ignorant fear, to grasp for relief at a proffered protection by France. I equally believe that little can be done here in Morocco to prevent such a contingency. Therefore, if not quite impracticable, I think it would be well that the French Government should, in some way, be made to understand that the independence of Morocco will not be allowed to be bartered away by the Sultan or any others over the heads, so to say, of Her Majesty's and other Governments equally interested in the maintenance of the freedom and territorial integrity of the Moorish Empire.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)*

(No. 129. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 24, 1887.

IN confirmation of the surmises contained in my despatch No. 84, Secret and Confidential of the 22nd August last, I have the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Señor Diosdado this morning, in the course of conversation, explained to me that it was on his advice, given to the Sultan when he was recently at Itabat, that His Shereefian Majesty directed Cid Emfadel Gharnett to bring forward the demand for the neutralization of the Moorish Empire.

Señor Diosdado further said to me that it is his conviction that an early political catastrophe in this country can only be averted by hurrying on the proposed reassembling of the Madrid Conference, and the immediate adoption by the European Governments of Mulai Hassan's proposals for the neutralization of his country.

Nevertheless, I must admit to your Lordship that though I believe it will be necessary to put in some way a term, or, at least, restrictions, on the foreign protection of Moorish subjects, I am still unable to perceive the advantages expected by my Spanish colleague from the discussion in the Cabinets of Europe of a scheme which appears to me so unattainable as the neutralization of a maladministered, disorganized, and territorially undefined Empire.

It may not be altogether impossible that Señor Diosdado, who, I believe, is perfectly loyal in his personal desire to secure the integrity and independence of Morocco, having a knowledge of certain inclinations of the Madrid Government to adopt a less disinterested policy, hopes, by the means he so strenuously advocates, to keep his own superiors on the path which he thinks the safest for Spain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 224.

*Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)*

(No. 102.)

My Lord,

Berlin, October 29, 1887.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 477 of the 26th instant, I read yesterday to Count Bismarck your Lordship's note to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires of the 14th instant, your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Kennedy No. 205 A of the 6th instant, and your Lordship's despatch to me No. 475 of the 21st instant, in order to explain to his Excellency the views of Her Majesty's Government on the proposals that have been made relating to the neutrality and independence of Morocco.

I also read to him your Lordship's despatch to Sir W. Kirby Green No. 63 of the 22nd August, regarding the protection of Moorish subjects, pointing out that the views of Her Majesty's Government on this subject appeared to be in accord with those of his Excellency as explained to Mr. Scott.

Count Bismarck expressed his thanks to your Lordship for acquainting him so completely with the views of Her Majesty's Government, and said that they appeared to accord entirely with those of the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 225.

*Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)*

(No. 404. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Berlin, October 29, 1887.

IN my despatch No. 402 of this day's date I had the honour to inform your Lordship that I read yesterday to Count Bismarck your Lordship's despatch to me

No. 475, Confidential, of the 21st instant, in which your Lordship stated that Señor del Mazo had given you to understand in confidence that the Spanish Government would not be sorry to see a self-denying agreement with respect to Morocco brought about among the Powers, in connection with the proposed meeting of the Madrid Conference on Protection, and I stated that your Lordship requested me to inquire of the German Government whether they would associate themselves in an engagement of this nature, if proposed by Great Britain, and accepted by France, Italy, and Spain.

Count Bismarck fully agreed that an undertaking of the nature indicated by your Lordship would facilitate the solution of the questions relating to commerce and the protection of natives in Morocco, and reassure the Sultan, and he said that he could at once assure me that his Government would associate themselves in such an engagement on the conditions mentioned by your Lordship. He observed, however, on the absence of the name of Austria from among the Powers whom it was proposed to associate in the agreement, and he said that, although not so directly concerned, he thought that it was advisable that that Power should also be included.

He also spoke about the connection of the questions of the surrender of protection on the part of the Powers, and the concession of commercial facilities on the part of the Sultan, and of the danger of the two getting into a vicious circle through the Powers refusing to surrender protection unless the Sultan made commercial concessions, and the Sultan refusing commercial concessions unless the protection of Moorish subjects were abandoned. His Excellency suggested that the difficulty might be obviated by the negotiation being based on the condition that both concessions should come into operation simultaneously.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 225\*.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received October 31.)*

(No. 126.)

My Lord,

Paris, October 30, 1887.

I VENTURE to send your Lordship the enclosed language of M. Jules Simon to an interviewer as given in yesterday's "Matin," as it gives roughly the views current here against any forward action of France in Morocco, but in favour of pressing Spain to come to an understanding opposed to the admixture of any third Power in Moroccan affairs.

In France, Spain is persistently looked on in the light of a poor relation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

Inclosure in No. 225\*.

*Extract from the "Journal le Matin," of October 20, 1887.*

LE MAROC.—En revanche, j'ai beaucoup causé politique pendant toute la durée de mon séjour.

En effet, la question Marocaine préoccupait en ce moment tous les esprits.

Je ne sais pas pourquoi, par exemple. Car ni la France, ni l'Espagne, n'ont intérêt à se jeter dans des aventures. Le statu quo est ce qu'elles peuvent se permettre de plus avantageux pour l'une et pour l'autre. Tous leurs efforts doivent se réunir contre l'Angleterre, qui pourrait bien chercher à jouer le rôle de troisième larron.

Nous surtout, nous n'avons aucun intérêt à étendre notre Protectorat sur le Maroc. D'abord la politique coloniale n'est pas en faveur parmi nous. Et à voir de quel œil on considère en France la colonisation de la Tunisie, qui est pourtant une des meilleures œuvres de la politique Ferry, notre Gouvernement doit être encouragé à tenter une nouvelle campagne du même genre. Et puis, il n'y a point de comparaison entre nos Colonies Algériennes et le Maroc.

En Algérie ou en Tunisie, toute tribu insurgée peut être rejetée au désert. Elle est, pour ainsi dire, accolée au Sahara. Au Maroc elle aurait derrière elle toute l'Afrique, d'où il résulte que la conquête de ce pays est infiniment plus difficile, pour ne pas dire impossible.



C'est bien ce que paraissent avoir compris autrefois les deux Cabinets de Paris et de Madrid. Il y eut même, si je ne me trompe, au temps où M. Silvela était Ambassadeur, un accord entre les deux Gouvernements pour maintenir le *status quo* et régler ensemble la question Marocaine.

Qu'est devenu ce pacte si raisonnable? Aujourd'hui la France n'a pas changé sa politique. L'Espagne au contraire semble vouloir provoquer la réunion d'un Congrès. A mon avis, elle a tort. A quoi bon appeler l'étranger dans le règlement de ses questions de famille? On s'expose toujours à faire le jeu d'un tiers.

En tout cas et quelle que soit la formule adoptée pour résoudre ce problème, on peut dire que le peuple et le Gouvernement Espagnols semblent rassurés aujourd'hui sur nos intentions et que notre attitude calme et réservée a réussi à désarmer toutes les méfiances.

C'est du moins l'impression que je rapporte de mes nombreux entretiens avec M. Moret, et je serais bien trompé si mon intervention avait été complètement étrangère à cet heureux résultat.

No. 226.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received October 31, 10-30 A.M.)

(No. 24.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, October 31, 1887, 8-20 A.M.*

NEWS of the 27th from Moorish Court reports Sultan as really convalescent.

His Majesty in great perplexity and alarm as to move of French Minister's visit. Latter, by letters which have preceded him, has intimated that he might have to withdraw from the country.

No. 227.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 87.)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, October 31, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 120, Confidential, of the 18th instant, and I have to convey to you my approval of the advice which you gave to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, as reported therein, in regard to the presence of Italian ships of war in Moorish waters in the present juncture of affairs.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 228.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

*Foreign Office, October 31, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's Nos. 120, 121, and 123 of October 16, 17, and 18, 1887. ante, Nos. 202, 203, and 211.]

No. 229.

*Señor del Mazo to Foreign Office.*—(Received November 1.)

M. le Sous-Secrétaire, *Légation de España, en Londres, le 30 Octobre, 1887.*

LE Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, M. Moret, me charge de présenter à Lord Salisbury les remerciements plus expressifs au nom du Gouvernement Espagnol pour sa décision sur la Conférence, ainsi que pour la preuve de considération dans la forme exprimée par sa Seigneurie.

Je vous prie, M. le Sous-Secrétaire, de vouloir bien en faire part à son Excellence,

déjà que je me prive de cet honneur, ne voulant lui déranger dans ses pressantes occupations.

Veuillez, &c.  
(Signé) C. DEL MAZO.

No. 230.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.\**

(No. 38.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, November 1, 1887, 3-30 P.M.*

SPANISH Government suggest Conference to consider Sultan's demands for modification of Madrid Convention of 1880.

We have replied that, in deference to their wish, we are willing to join proposed Conference, but it must be with a wide reference.

We suggest that Conference should meet to consider to what extent, and on what conditions, Powers can accede to the wishes expressed by the Sultan in his communications relating to protection of natives and to neutralization of his dominions.

[† Communicate substance of this to Count Bismarck.]

No. 231.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 89.)  
Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 1, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 124 of the 20th ultimo, upon the subject of the misunderstanding which had arisen between the United States' Consul at Tangier and the Acting Moorish Commissioner for Foreign Affairs; and I have to convey to you my approval of your action in the matter as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 232.

*Sir C. Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.*—(Received November 2.)

(No. 135. Confidential.)

*Madrid, October 28, 1887.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, invited me to come and see him yesterday.

On my presenting myself at the Ministry, Señor Moret gave me a graphic account of what had taken place last Monday, the 24th instant, at the Palace. It appears that M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, had had an interview on that day with the Queen-Regent, and had entered into a long tirade against England and what he termed her meddling policy, and her greed in always seeking everything which might be of advantage to herself in order to serve her selfish ends, and her persistent attitude of disagreeableness towards France.

These observations were evidently intended to prejudice Her Majesty's mind against England with a view of advocating his opinion, that France and Spain are the only two Powers who have interests in Morocco, and that to them alone belongs the task of controlling the destinies of that country.

M. Cambon then went on a step further, and appears to have actually held out a vision of the eventual partition of Morocco between France and Spain. As he disclosed his plan, it would appear to have differed considerably to the one he propounded to Señor Moret, as reported to your Lordship in my Confidential despatch No. 121 of the 16th instant.

The suggestion as disclosed to the Queen was as follows: France was to extend

\* Also to Sir E. Mallet (No. 107), Sir A. Paget (No. 96), Sir J. Savile (No. 92), and Sir W. K. Green (No. 90).

† To Berlin only.

her Algerian frontier to the Mularga, and thence in a southerly direction to Mequinez. She was then to strike to the west, and be allowed to acquire the territory to the south of the Atlas Mountains, which is inhabited by the Sus tribes, and thus obtain a good sea-port on the Atlantic, which, M. Cambon naively observed to Her Majesty, would be very convenient to France as being in the vicinity of the Niger.

As regarded Spain in this partition scheme, she was to have the rest of the Empire not allotted to France, and would thus acquire a good deal of the interior of the country, as well as Tangier and part of the north and the whole of the north-west seaboard.

On my inquiring of Señor Moret what impression these revelations had produced on the Queen when she heard them, and what, if any, reply Her Majesty had vouchsafed to them, Señor Moret said that the Queen had been extremely surprised, but had been most guarded in her language. Her Majesty had not been sorry when the interview had terminated.

It appears that M. Cambon had worked himself up into such a state of excitement that his cheeks had become red, which circumstance had been noticed by the Infanta Isabel, who happened to be entering the Royal apartment just as the French Ambassador was quitting it. The Infanta had told Señor Moret that she had remarked the circumstance to the Queen, and had asked her, laughingly, whether they had been having a game of romps!

On the day following this interview Her Majesty had informed both Señor Sagasta, the President of the Council, and Señor Moret what had passed at it.

Shortly afterwards, Señor Moret had seen the Ambassador himself at the Ministry of State, and Señor Moret informed me that he had referred to the interview he (the Ambassador) had held with the Queen, and addressed to him some questions respecting it. To Señor Moret's intense astonishment, M. Cambon stated that it was not he but the Queen who had started the conversation as to the partition of Morocco.

I can assure your Lordship that I am only repeating Señor Moret's own words, although, as I write them, they bear to me an appearance of exaggeration.

The conversation being pursued between Señor Moret and M. Cambon, the former remarked that were the schemes of the latter to be carried into execution other nations might have something to say with a view to thwarting their accomplishment.

"In that case," said Señor Moret, "what would poor Spain be able to do?" "Oh," replied the Ambassador, "that would be your affair, and it would not concern us!"

M. Cambon then went on to say that when he was recently in Paris he had spoken to M. Flourens with regard to the scheme; that M. Flourens had listened to him with attention but had made no rejoinder, but that he had nevertheless reported the matter to M. Rouvier.

M. Cambon then informed Señor Moret that in the month of August last he had visited Gibraltar, and that, so far as he could perceive, the fortifications there did not appear to be very formidable, and he predicted that, were Tangier in the possession of Spain, Gibraltar would, as a natural consequence, soon fall into the hands again of Spain. The Ambassador, however, did not enter into any details as to how such an event was to be consummated.

The conversation then turned on the subject of the projected meeting in Madrid of a Conference on the affairs of Morocco, and M. Cambon said that he had been given to understand that England was opposed to it. Señor Moret replied that he had no reason to believe so. "Well, then," continued the Ambassador, "England has changed her mind; and if she has done so, it is that she has discovered some prospect of advantage she may gain by joining it."

M. Cambon then reiterated to Señor Moret what he had so often said before to him, namely, that in his opinion France and Spain alone were concerned in the affairs of Morocco, which should not properly, in his view, be considered as an European question.

I listened to Señor Moret with great interest and with a feeling which was not unmingled with amusement, and when his Excellency had concluded I inquired of him what he thought of M. Cambon, to which his Excellency promptly replied, "Cambon is a fool." "Surely," I observed, "he did good work in Tunis?" "Yes," said Señor Moret, "but only of a purely administrative nature. He took a leaf out of England's book, and treated the natives with some show of consideration and respect for their habits and customs; but M. Cambon," he said, "is no diplomatist. Nevertheless, I like to 'draw him out,' and I shall soon have another talk with him, to" (as Señor Moret expressed it) "tirer le ver de son nez."

I cannot conclude this despatch without remarking that M. Cambon is an exceedingly accomplished and well-bred gentleman, and, socially speaking, most popular in Madrid. He appears to me, however, to emerge into a curious light when his official conversations are revealed, and one is almost prompted to inquire whether he can really be in earnest and speaking seriously when one hears of the incomprehensible language he sometimes holds, and I can with difficulty understand that a man of his sense, and one holding so high a position in his profession, can be so outspoken in his language, particularly to persons who he ought to be shrewd enough to guess do not entirely share his opinions, however courteous and attentive listeners they may be to them.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 233.

*Sir G. Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)*

(No. 187. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, October 28, 1887.*

AT an interview I held yesterday with Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, his Excellency showed me a telegram which he had received on the 25th instant from the Spanish Ambassador in Paris, from which it would appear that the French Government, in the event of any Conference being held here with regard to Morocco, would feel inclined, before giving their assent to join in it, to enter into some sort of agreement ("acuerdo") with the Spanish Government respecting the scope which the labours of such a Conference would have in view.

I gather that the French Government are very suspicious of England in the matter; that they are inclined to believe that she is seeking to obtain advantages in Morocco which would be distasteful to them; and that it would be a hazardous undertaking to agree to a meeting of a Conference the outcome of which might be to better the position of England, either politically or commercially, in that country.

I also gather that the key-note of France's policy in the present crisis is to persuade Spain that the affairs of Morocco does not constitute an European question, but that it affects France and Spain alone, to the exclusion of other Powers.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 233\*

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)*

(No. 189. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, October 30, 1887.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 19 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I saw Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, yesterday, and I informed him of its contents.

His Excellency expressed himself as feeling very gratified, and was especially pleased at the extreme courtesy which had been displayed by your Lordship on this occasion in stating that Her Majesty's Government were willing, out of deference to the wish which had been expressed on the subject by the Spanish Government, to take part in the proposed Conference on the Morocco question.

Señor Moret informed me that, as soon as he had time to apprise his colleagues of the communication which I had made to him, he would confer with me again.

Interspersed with this, his Excellency observed that Her Majesty's Government had made an allusion to the wishes with respect to the neutralization of his dominions which had been expressed by the Sultan in a communication.

That communication, said Señor Moret, can be no other than the one which was addressed on the 16th August last by Cid Emfadel Gharneet to Sir Kirby Green, and which formed the answer of the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs to the collective note which had been addressed to him on the 12th March last by the Representatives in Morocco of Spain, Great Britain, and Italy, and the existence of which note the French Government, so far as he (Señor Moret) was aware, are in a perfect state of

ignorance; nor would it be expedient, continued Señor Moret, that they should receive any intimation respecting it. Great care, he said, would have to be taken to avoid arousing their suspicions, and it would be very necessary to be guarded when treating the matter of the proposed Conference with the French Government that nothing should transpire which might give them an inkling that the three above-mentioned Powers had taken collective action on a Morocco question, and that the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs had given a reply to their note, in which reply, however, he (the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs) had thought fit to extend the original idea which had guided the three Powers in making their communication to him in the first instance.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 234.

*Memorandum confidentially communicated by Baron de Biegeleben, November 2, 1887.*

THE attitude of the Imperial and Royal Government with regard to Morocco is summarized in the following extracts of conversations with the Spanish Minister in Vienna as well as of the instructions given to the Imperial and Royal Consul-General at Tangier.

As far back as the 5th September Mr. Merry del Val expressed the desire of the Spanish Government to learn Count Kálnoky's views with regard to a renewal of the Madrid Conference and a revision of the Treaty of the 3rd July, 1880, as well as to the probability of the Powers agreeing to take part in the Conference.

At a later opportunity Count Kálnoky remarked, in reply, that the Imperial and Royal Cabinet would see no objection against receiving favourably an invitation addressed to it by the Spanish Government to take part in this Conference, that, moreover, they would endeavour to support in it the views of the latter Government chiefly with regard to the right of "protection."

With the exception of France, which was most directly concerned in the matter, he did not anticipate any difficulties as to the other Powers joining in the Conference.

The recent illness of the Sultan of Morocco and its possible consequences caused the Spanish Government again to communicate with the Imperial and Royal Government on the subject, at the same time expressing their earnest desire for the maintenance of the *status quo*. The question of the neutralization of Morocco was also then raised by them.

In replying, Count Kálnoky could not but lay stress on the remoteness of the interests which the Austro-Hungarian Government had in the matter, which would not be likely to cause Germany either to abandon its reserve; he could, therefore, but recommend Her Spanish Majesty's Government to seek an *entente* with England and Italy, as the two most closely interested and, at the same time, friendly-disposed Powers.

Count Kálnoky added that, to the best of his knowledge, France had manifested no desire of taking advantage in any way of this question, nor did he think the African coast likely at the present moment to distract the attention of French statesmen from the Vosges.

Bearing this in mind, as well as the fact that apparently the Powers were unanimous in their desire of maintaining the *status quo*, Señor Moret, according to Count Kálnoky's opinion, would not do better than lead up to a confidential exchange of views with the French Cabinet with a view of bringing about a mutual understanding in the matter.

The neutralization scheme did not seem practicable to him, as there was no chance of finding all the Powers in favour of it.

In the instructions given to the Imperial and Royal Consul-General stress was laid on the exigency of the interests, either political or other, which Austria-Hungary had in the question as such.

Being desirous, however, as one of the Mediterranean Powers, of avoiding any territorial changes on those shores to the advantage of one Power only, the Imperial and Royal Cabinet intends to adhere to the general lines of its policy of maintenance of peace and of preservation of the present state of things in harmony with those

Powers that, closely befriended to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, pursue similar objects.

The Powers most directly interested in the Morocco question are France, England, and Italy, and although the former disclaims any policy of action in the matter, her Agents no doubt have shown a tendency of supporting by their influence and that of their Government a distinct line of action subservient to exclusively French interests.

Bearing in mind the principles of maintenance of peace and the preservation of the *status quo*, upon which the Imperial and Royal Government are in such close harmony with the Cabinets of St. James' and of Rome, the Imperial and Royal Agent at Tangier will consider it his primary duty to co-operate with the Representatives of these Powers, at the same time endeavouring to meet any wishes of the Spanish Government should the occasion present itself.

From considerations alluded to above, the attitude of His Majesty's Representative will be one of reserve, and finding himself in this respect in an analogous position to his German colleague, he will remain in accord with the latter in any case of uncertainty.

Should political considerations or the safety of Austro-Hungarian residents in Morocco require it, His Majesty's squadron, at present cruising in Spanish waters, would be ordered to Tangier; but so far, the necessity has not presented itself.

No. 235.

*Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2, 5.30 P.M.)*

(No. 55.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Berlin, November 2, 1887, 4.30 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 107 of yesterday

Substance communicated to Count Bismarck. He said Spanish Minister here had already informed him of your Lordship's reply, and had also told him that the French Government had stated in their reply that the subject of the Conference should be limited to the question of protection of natives.

Count Bismarck said that the German Government would accept whatever was agreed to by the Powers in friendship with Germany, who were primarily interested.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2, 10 p.m.)*

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.)

Paris, November 2, 7.45 p.m.

YOUR telegram No. 35.\*

M. Flourens says French Minister has gone to Mequinez to insist on punishment for murder of Lieutenant Schmidt by [ ] tribe and compensation.

No. 237.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.*

(No. 190. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 2, 1887.

I HAVE to request your Excellency to communicate confidentially to Count Kálnoky my note to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires of the 4th ult mo, my despatch to Mr Kennedy No. 295 a of the 6th ultimo, and my despatch to Sir E. Malet No. 475 of the 21st ultimo, which will be the most convenient way of explaining to his Excellency the views of Her Majesty's Government on the proposals that have been made relating to the neutrality and independence of Morocco.

I have also to request your Excellency to show to Count Kálnoky my despatch to Sir W. K. Green No. 63 of the 22nd August relating to the subject of the protection of Moorish subjects by foreign Governments.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 238.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 3.)*

(No. 129.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 28, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that a letter received by me yesterday afternoon, under date of the 23rd instant, from Kaid MacLean, informs me that the Sultan, though he has shown himself once or twice in public since the 7th instant, is still very weak and unwell. His Majesty is unable to shake off the fever from which he is suffering, and cannot take much nourishment.

The prevailing fever continues to make daily victims among the Sultan's harem and retainers. It is said that, as soon as His Majesty can bear the fatigues of the journey, he will remove to Fez, where the general health is good.

I have also received a letter from Cid Emfadel Gharnat, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which his Excellency repeats Kaid MacLean's account of the Sultan's health, and promises that he will submit to His Majesty, as soon as he is capable of occupying himself with current affairs, "before all other matters," the counsels which I had confidentially given to his Excellency concerning the telegraph cable and such other subjects.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 239.

*Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. del Mazo, November 4*

*"Mogador, le 20 Octobre, 1887.*

DANS une communication confidentielle provenant de Mogador on dit ce qui suit :—

"Une de ces dernières nuits se présenta un bateau à vapeur avec cinq feux allumés, entre Sidi-Mohamed-Ben-Abdellah et Ifay, et comme on ne répondit pas dès

\* Repeated Sir W. Green's telegram No. 24: ante, No. 226.

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la côte avec aucun signal il partit au lever du jour du surlendemain; les habitants de Ait-Bonmaza et d'Ankar qui se trouvent dans cet endroit montèrent la garde pendant toute la nuit pour empêcher un débarquement.

"Selon précédemment j'avais fait savoir avec réserve, le Caïd Brabim-Ben-Ilm et le L-xeini, ils s'étaient soumis au constant ennemi du Sultan; maintenant je puis assurer que la soumission est apparente avec le but de le surveiller plus de près et tâcher de s'opposer à ses plans, ce que je soupçonnais, ne pouvant s'attendre à un autre procédé de ceux qui ont été toujours si loyaux.

"Dans le dernier voyage a été attaqué le courrier Muley Ali, envoyé par le Consul d'Espagne, lequel réussit à se sauver en se servant à temps du revolver que portait pour se défendre.

"Sans doute le Consul de France s'est proposé d'exterminer à tous ceux qui ne l'aident pas dans ses intrigues dans le Sud, puisque ce sont les gens d'Hassan ceux qui ont attaqué Muley Ali, ainsi que ceux qui attaquèrent Morabet en accomplissement des ordres du Consul de France."

No. 240.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)*

(No. 432. Ext. 21.)

My Lord,

Paris, November 2, 1887.

I ASKED M. Flourens to-day respecting M. Feraud's reported journey to Mequinez.

His Excellency told me that the French Minister had gone there to insist on the punishment of the tribesmen who had murdered the French officer Schmidt, and on compensation being given.

He said the tribe which I understood him to call Sulit had been previously in revolt against the Sultan.

I was only able to see his Excellency for a moment as he was leaving his office, and could not have any further conversation with him on the subject, nor did I ask him to repeat the name of the tribe, which, probably, I did not catch exactly, and which is no doubt the Azimom tribe mentioned by Sir W. Kirby Green in his No. 94 of the 5th September.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 241.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4, 9 A.M.)*

(No. 22.)

(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, November 3, 1887, 6.40 P.M.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 139, Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, I saw Señor Moret yesterday evening.

His Excellency impressed upon me the importance of a Conference being held to examine questions affecting Morocco, and that, without one being held, France will have it all her own way in that country.

France, however, will only agree to join a Conference on two conditions:—

1. Limitation of the subject to be discussed at it, namely, right of protection.
2. Accord with Spain as to settlement of that question.

Señor Moret stated that the difficulty now presented itself as to the formula to be adopted in the note to be addressed inviting foreign Powers to join the Conference.

France's suspicion would be aroused were any mention to be made of guaranteeing, at the Conference, the integrity of Morocco, or of any proposal for the neutralization of that Empire.

Señor Moret suggests that the practical mode of attaining the object in view, namely, the meeting of the Conference, would be to base the invitation on the note which was addressed by Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Spanish Minister at Tangier, dated 17th August (see inclosure in Sir W. K. Green's No. 104 of 1th October). France could not refuse to take part in it.

With regard to France's second condition, Señor Moret said that, should any such agreement be arranged, it would be made acceptable to the other Powers, but that no agreement of the sort would be contracted unless it proved indispensable to the meeting of the Conference.

Señor Moret then repeated to me the language he had used on 20th October, as reported in my despatch No. 129 of that date, viz., that, when once the Conference met, other subjects would be discussed as natural consequence, and he added that, were France to refuse discussion of such subjects, she would show the eleven hoof, and that she was no friend to Morocco.

Señor Moret placed in my hands a Memorandum on present aspect of this question, a translation of which I shall transmit to your Lordship by messenger.

No. 242.

*Consul Payton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)*

(No. 26. Consular.)

My Lord,

Mogador, October 25, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report that news recently received here of the serious illness of His Sheressian Majesty the Sultan caused a certain amount of uneasiness and alarm in the public mind, in respect of disturbances which might possibly arise, in many parts of the Empire, in the event of a fatal termination of His Majesty's illness.

News has lately, and again this morning, reached the local authorities of the Sovereign's satisfactory progress toward recovery, and I am also happy to report that the general tone of the public mind, both among Moors and Europeans, in this town and neighbourhood, appears to be tranquil, and the relations between natives and foreigners friendly and satisfactory.

A French gun-boat, the "d'Estrées," has this morning arrived at this port, sent down, I am informed, on a visit of inspection to the Atlantic ports of Morocco, and would, should there arise any cause of apprehension for the safety of European residents in those ports, be followed by vessels of war of other nationalities.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

No. 243.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)*

(No. 130.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 28, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 127, Confidential, of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the French Minister started early yesterday morning for the Moorish Court at Mequinez, where he expects to arrive on the 31st.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 244.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)*

(No. 131.)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 30, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 121 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the French sloop "d'Estrées" returned this morning from visiting all the Atlantic ports of this Empire, and that I have received reports from the British Consular officers that perfect public tranquillity exists in their respective districts, where Sheressian letters had been received announcing the Sultan's recovery from his serious illness.

I must here point out to your Lordship that these letters were dispatched from the Moorish Court at a time when Mulai Hassan was still dangerously ill, and that,



until the Sultan has completely recovered, Morocco should not be considered as altogether safe from sudden political convulsions. It is for this reason that I have as yet abstained from following the example of my French and Spanish colleagues, who have obtained from Paris and Madrid the recall of the vessels of war which have been sent to these waters by their respective Governments. At the same time, I do not think there is any need for the dispatch to the western Moorish ports of any English man-of-war, and I have been somewhat surprised to learn that the Italian and Austrian Governments should have sent to those ports the iron-clad "Affondatore" and the Imperial and Royal gun-boat "Albatros." I understand that these vessels proceeded to the western coast under direct orders from Rome and Vienna, the Italian and Austrian Chargés d'Affaires here not having been first consulted on the matter.

I still think that, while it is advisable to avoid all undue display of force out of consideration for the natural national susceptibilities of the Moorish Government and people, the time has not yet come for me to report to your Lordship that the affairs and state of this country have returned to their ordinary tranquil condition.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 245.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 90.)

*Foreign Office, November 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of No. 151 A, Confidential, to Sir Clare Ford, dated October 25; and Mr. Egerton's Nos. 124 and 125, Confidential, of October 28, 1887 ante, Nos. 197, 219, and 220.]

No. 246.

*Foreign Office to War Office.\**

*Foreign Office, November 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 126 of October 21, 1887: ante, No. 221.]

No. 247.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 6, 4 P.M.)*

(No. 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, November 6, 1887, 12:35 P.M.*

SULTAN being now completely restored to health, I do not consider there is any further need for presence of ships of war at Gibraltar.

No. 248.

*Consul Payton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 27. Consular.)

My Lord,

*Mogador, October 29, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 26 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to report that further satisfactory news of the recovery of His Shercofian Majesty the Sultan has been received by one of the local officials.

I have also the honour to report the visit of the Italian iron-clad "Affondatore," which arrived yesterday at 1 P.M., and will sail for Gibraltar to-morrow.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON.

\* Also to Admiralty.

No. 249.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 139. Confidential. Ext. 24.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, October 31, 1887.*

I HAVE this day had the honour of reporting to your Lordship by telegraph that letters received by me last night from Mequinez, under date of the 27th instant, announce that the Sultan continues to gain strength daily, and His Majesty purposed riding to the Mosque on Friday, the 28th.

I have also learnt, in a most confidential manner, from a trustworthy source at the Moorish Court, that Muley Hassan and all his Ministers are in a most nervous state as to the visit of M. Péraud.

Since the French Minister's demand for the payment of 100,000 fr. as an indemnity for the relatives of the murdered officer, Major Schmitt, which the Sultan declined to accede to except he was relieved of the presence at his Court of the whole of the French Military Commission, he (M. Péraud) has been sending daily letters to His Majesty's Ministers, pressing his claims and views on their attention.

I am assured that these communications at last culminated by the reception, on the evening of the 28th instant, of a letter in which M. Péraud declared that he was arriving at Mequinez in order to let the Sultan know that he would be obliged, under the circumstances, to leave Morocco altogether.

I am still of opinion that M. Péraud's real object in proceeding to the Moorish Court is to oppose the reassembling of the Madrid Conference, and to counteract the neutralization scheme, and that he is using the claim for an indemnity for Major Schmitt's family solely as a convenient channel whereby to act on the Sultan's fears.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 250.

*Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 411. Ext. 53.)

My Lord,

*Berlin, November 2, 1887.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 167 of yesterday's date, the substance of which I have communicated to Count Bismarck in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I have the honour to state that his Excellency informed me that Count Benomar, the Spanish Minister here, had already communicated to him confidentially the substance of your Lordship's answer respecting the Conference proposed by the Spanish Government to take into consideration the question of the protection of natives in Morocco.

Count Benomar had also told his Excellency that the French Government had stated, in their reply to the invitation, that they were anxious that nothing beyond the question of protection of natives should be discussed in the Conference.

Count Bismarck told me that his Government would be ready to accept the course which should be agreed upon by the Powers primarily interested who were in friendship with Germany.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 251.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)*

(No. 23.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Madrid, November 7, 1887.*

A NEW complication has arisen with respect to the Morocco Conference. This time it is from Russia. Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I have just seen, informs me that he has received a despatch from St. Petersburg stating (1) that Russia is desirous of seeing Spain act hand in hand with France in the Morocco question; (2) that she (Russia) reserves her opinion as to the meeting of the Conference; and

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(3) that she (Russia), whilst disclaiming any desire to assume an active part in the affairs of Morocco, still takes a lively interest in all that passes in that country owing to the extensive dealings she has with populations professing the Mohammedan religion.

No. 252.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green*

(No. 91 Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 6, 1887

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 129 and 131, Confidential, of October 20 and October 22, and Sir F. Malet's Nos. 102 and 104, Confidential, of October 29, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 105, 218, 224, and 225.]

No. 253.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)*

(No. 141 Confidential. Ext. 23.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 3, 1887

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had an interview with Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister for State, last evening.

His Excellency spoke to me on the subject of the proposed Conference in Morocco affairs, and on my leaving him placed in my hands a Memorandum (translation of which is herewith enclosed), which he said he had drawn up, and in which were stated his views on the question in its present aspect.

Your Lordship will not fail to observe the importance of this document, and, when I read it on my return home, I could not help reverting to the despatch which was addressed to your Lordship by Sir Kirby Green on the 11th ultimo, copy of which was transmitted to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 150 of the 21st ultimo.

In that despatch are clearly set forth the views of Señor Drosdado, the Spanish Minister at Tangier, with regard to the manner in which he considered the revision of the Convention of 1880 regarding foreign protection of Moorish subjects, should be handled.

In his opinion the revision of that instrument should not be made a means of obtaining concessions in favour of commerce from the Sultan, and Señor Drosdado expressed his knowledge of the fact that the Sultan of Morocco was determined "not to budge about the question of protection, which must precede every other concession calculated to increase Morocco's intercourse with abroad." Señor Drosdado went on to make the following extraordinary admission, namely: "that no other policy of safety or favour to Morocco but that of giving way without discussion to the wishes, ever expressed, of the Sultan and his Ministers."

Sir Kirby Green enclosed in his despatch a translation of a letter, dated the 17th August, which had been addressed by Muhammad Gharnet to Sir F. Drosdado, but Sir Kirby Green was not indebted to him for the copy of the note, for he had received it in a most confidential manner from Señor Naosa, the Spanish Charge d'Affaires.

Señor Moret was good enough to give me a copy of this letter in Spanish, and I have carefully compared it with the translation which was forwarded to your Lordship by Sir Kirby Green. As it tallies in every respect with it, it is useless for me to transmit another copy to your Lordship.

This document is also a very important one, and appears to emphasize the statement, from the Moorish point of view, that the Convention of 1880 had been treated in accordance with justice and Treaties, and that indeed the act of placing by foreign Powers under its jurisdiction the subjects of another nation was subversive of the maintenance of its liberty and independence, and ought to be abolished.

M. Lamond Gharnet's letter goes on to say that the Moorish subjects of the Sultan had been consulted by His Majesty on the subject of new commercial concessions to be granted to Germany, France, and Great Britain, and that they had been opposed to any such concessions. The last paragraph of the note appears certainly intended to convey the idea that the object and scope of any fresh Conference to be held at Madrid should

\* N. 138.

be confined to the modification of the 1880 arrangement, and to giving to the former Treaties their true and primitive significance as far as refers to protection.

Thus we have become acquainted with the views of Señor Drosdado, the Spanish Minister at Tangier (who quite recently was at Madrid), and we have also obtained a clear insight into the wishes of the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs, on these important matters. Both these functionaries would seem to desire that any action to be taken by the proposed Conference should be limited to the revision only of the 1880 Convention regarding the foreign protection of Moorish subjects.

Now, when the question was mooted last summer of the meeting of a Conference to reconsider the latter question, your Lordship expressed the views of Her Majesty's Government, respecting it in a despatch to Sir Kirby Green No. 63, Confidential, of the 22nd August.

A copy of this despatch was communicated last month by your Lordship to Señor Mazo, the Spanish Minister in London, and on his reporting the circumstances to Señor Moret, together with the contents of that despatch, the latter, at an interview I held with him on the 20th ultimo, expressed to me the disappointment he felt that Her Majesty's Government would not consent to join the Conference with certain preliminary steps had been taken with the Moorish Government, and without being previously assured that in return for any modifications which might be effected in the 1880 Convention certain commercial facilities would be granted by the Sultan in return.

In my despatch No. 129 of the 20th ultimo I reported to your Lordship a conversation which I had held on the subject with Señor Moret.

In consequence of my above-mentioned despatch I received on the 25th ultimo a telegram from your Lordship informing me that in reference to the wish which had been expressed by the Spanish Government, Her Majesty's Government would be willing to join the proposed Conference, but that it must be "within a week reference."

Such is a brief history of the question up to the present, and I have made the above sketch of it in order to mark the point at which we have now arrived, as is set forth in the Memorandum which is herewith enclosed, and which has been drawn up by the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the situation.

If I might be allowed to epitomize that document, I should feel obliged to condense its contents in the following words: "Come to the Conference—Trust to luck, and I will pull you through."

I do not for one moment doubt Señor Moret's honesty of purpose in this matter, for I enter into the high opinion of him, and believe him to be perfectly trustworthy, but there can be no doubt that he is very anxious to keep Mr. F. Drosdado up to the fulfilment of the promise he made to him at Paris, namely, that France would join the Conference, nevertheless, Señor Moret now feels that the fulfilment of that promise is sagged by France with certain conditions, the first of which is that the Conference should be limited to the protection question, and the second, that Spain should enter into some kind of preliminary agreement with France.

Thus your Lordship will perceive that Señor Moret's attitude in the event of England joining him to her point, namely, that the Conference should be held at the Conference should have a wider scope than it is made to have is cost him, then, a chance of a meeting of the Conference might be wrecked. This would be a bitter disappointment to Señor Moret, if not to any one else.

In order to overcome the scruples of Her Majesty's Government, Señor Moret asserts that no preliminary agreement as to the subjects to be discussed is necessary, that the formula of invitation to be addressed to the countries who are proposed should assist as it should be based on the note of the 17th August which was addressed by the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Señor Drosdado.

Such a course would no doubt satisfy France, but would it satisfy England?

Señor Moret is sanguine that when once the Conference is the subject of deliberations could and would be sensibly enlarged, and sufficiently enlarged, in fact, to meet the wishes of Her Majesty's Government, and at the same time to come within the meaning of the words of your Lordship's telegram, "within a week reference."

But I would ask your Lordship what would be the result if Señor Moret's sanguine hopes were not to be realized? And I would ask you to consider the Conference, and having as we might say, the case bettered the position of the Moorish Government as regards the modification of the protection of its subjects, were it to be effected without a position on the part of the Moorish Government, and that in the words of the Vizier, Muhammad Gharnet, the subjects of the Sultan of Morocco, after

\* No. 141.

consultation, had given "a negative answer" to any new commercial concessions to be granted to the German, French, and British nations? And again, might not the introduction of topics other than those relating to the protection question be resented by the Delegate of France and lead to recriminations and unpleasantness?

Señor Moret asserts that were France to take umbrage and retire from the Conference she would lay herself open to the charge of unfriendliness to Morocco; but would not France rather defend herself by quoting Muhammad Gharneet's words, and plume herself on being Morocco's real friend, inasmuch as it is declared that the subjects of the Sultan are opposed to commercial advantages being granted to foreigners?

In short, would Señor Moret's friendly intentions be realizable? Would his power be equal to his will?

For my part, I cannot but help thinking that the position of the British negotiator at the Conference would under such circumstances be extremely awkward, to say the least of it.

The above considerations have been suggested to my mind on perusing Señor Moret's Memorandum, and although I feel convinced that Her Majesty's Government will do their best to meet the wishes of a friendly Government in this matter, I entertain the belief that Her Majesty's Government will hardly agree to participate in such important deliberations without having a clear and precise notion of what they are going in for, and of the exact scope of the matters to be discussed at the Conference should it ever meet.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 253

Memorandum handed to Sir Clare Ford by Señor Moret, November 2, 1887

(Translation.)

THE essential point for the attainment of the ends which the different Powers have in view depends upon the meeting of the Conference; if this does not take place, there is no way of modifying the question of protection, nor of examining other matters, in which case the desires and proposals of France will be alone realized. It is therefore necessary to subordinate all other aspirations to this fundamental idea, and without abandoning any, to co-ordinate them in the best possible manner.

France formulates two conditions previous to consenting to take part in the Conference: that the programme should be limited to an examination of the right of protection; and that Spain should come to an agreement with her with a view to settling the modification of that right.

A note of invitation then, in which the idea of guaranteeing the existing territories of Morocco should be presented as a subject of consideration, mention being made of the proposal of the Sultan for the neutralization of his Empire, would at once arouse the suspicions of France, and by eliciting a negative answer in response to the invitation to assist at the Conference would not only make the meeting of it impossible, but would precipitate events which have been in course of preparation for a long time—events which would compromise the integrity of the Moorish territory, and would perhaps bring on a European conflict.

If, therefore, the Conference is to take place, and if all that is expected of it is to be realized, it is indispensable to discover a formula of invitation which will awaken no suspicion, and which at the same time will leave the door open to the question of the guarantee and neutralization of Morocco; and these two conditions being granted there is but one practical mode of attaining the object in view, namely, to base the invitation on the Sultan's note of the 17th August, relative to the Conference, without making any mention of his note of the same date\* in which he called for the neutralization of the Empire. If the Conference be thus assembled, France cannot refuse to take part in it, and as Spain will introduce no matter of any kind indicating her ulterior wishes, but only limit herself to being the Sultan's Representative, nobody will be able to require her to modify such programme, or to add any kind of restrictions.

With regard to the second aspiration of France, namely, the agreement which she wishes to come to with the Spanish Government for the purpose of settling previously the right of protection, the question can be arranged in a simple and practical formula, whereby the Spanish Government will be able to arrive at an agreement acceptable to the whole world, and as a last resort such an agreement would have in any case to be submitted to the will of the majority. The obligation of the Spanish Government, should it be contracted, would then be limited to and circumscribed by this fundamental point,

\* Query August 167 (See Sir W. E. Green's No. 53, Confidential, of August 31, 1887)

and be subject to the decision of the Conference. It is further clear that this obligation would only be contracted if such a condition were indispensable to the meeting of the Conference.

When the Conference had once been assembled on the basis indicated, it is quite certain that, without losing sight of the programme or departing from the proposals contained in the invitation, there will of necessity and unavoidably appear in the discussions the question of the territorial guarantees which the Sultan demands. And this will be the case, because that question is so closely connected with that of the commercial concessions called for by the Powers, that it would be impossible to discuss the point unless the Representative of the Sultan should formulate his claim. As a proof that this is so, it is sufficient to remember that, when England, France, and Germany together negotiated the Commercial Treaty, the reply of the Sultan, after a previous consultation of the Moorish people, included this same idea of guarantees in order that the new concessions might not have as their results the ruin of his authority and the weakening of the Empire.

The connection of these ideas is consequently commanded by fate; the Sultan demands that the right of protection should be modified. Europe replies that she cannot do so unless he gives security for the proper treatment of foreigners, and unless commercial concessions are granted; the Sultan replies that to do this in view of the attitude of his people he requires assurances and guarantees for the integrity of his territories and the maintenance of his authority; and accordingly the question remains entirely on the footing which England desires.

The question, then, is simply one of studying the indispensable *modus operandi* in these matters, and the mode of attaining the final object, avoiding at the same time preliminary questions which would render such an object impossible, and which would offer France a pretext for hindering the meeting of the Conference or of postponing it indefinitely. Provided the Conference should assemble, taking as the basis of its action the request of the Sultan of the 17th August, nobody will bind himself to anything, and every question will remain open to the deliberation of the Conference; if any other programme is formulated, the Conference will not assemble.

Should the Conference have once assembled, and should France, on these questions being raised, wish to withdraw, in that case the position of the other Powers would be perfectly clear, and the final result of the Conference favourable to those Powers who desired the integrity of Morocco.

On the other hand, if Spain were to take her stand upon the Sultan's note of the 17th August alone, which has been accepted in principle by France, she would be responsible for the failure of the Conference should so untoward an event take place, it would prove to the Sultan and to the Powers who were their true friends; and it would lighten the task of the Powers interested in maintaining the integrity of Morocco in their desire of finding an occasion of entering into a negotiation for the purpose of guaranteeing once for all the integrity of the Empire.

In short, the desires of Her Majesty's Government will be completely satisfied by the course of action indicated, as the Conference will meet within a wide reference, as the Powers will come to it with liberty to examine to what extent and on what conditions they wish to be able to accede to the wishes expressed by the Sultan of Morocco. Accepting then the telegram of Lord Salisbury, the only passage which should be eliminated from the note of invitation is the reference to the note of the 17th August,\* in which the Sultan asks for the neutralization of Morocco; this note being a secret and confidential document, could not be referred to without risk and without compromising the Sultan of Morocco himself.

October 31, 1887.

No. 254.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 142. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 5, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I received this day your Lordship's despatch No. 151 A, Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, relative to certain proposals which had been made to your Lordship by the Spanish Minister in London in regard to Morocco, and which Señor Mazo stated I had, in compliance with Señor Moret's request, transmitted to Her Majesty's Government.

\* Query August 167 (See Sir W. E. Green's No. 53, Confidential, of August 31, 1887)

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I do not find that these proposals differ widely from what Señor Moret had said to me at the interview which I had held with him on the 2nd instant, and the substance of which I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship in my No. 22 on the following day.

After having transmitted that telegram, I addressed to your Lordship my despatch No. 141 of the 3rd instant, in which I commented on what Señor Moret had said to me, nor do I see, after subsequently reading your Lordship's despatch No. 151 A, anything of importance to alter in that despatch.

Proposals Nos. 1 and 2, made by Señor Mazo, that England should accept generally ("tout bonnement") the invitation to the Conference, the formula of which should be based on the Moorish note, represent substantially what Señor Moret proposed to me.

But I would submit that the oftener one reads the Moorish note of the 17th August the more glaring appears to me to be the fact that the whole scope of the Conference desired by the Moorish Government is the revision of the 1880 Convention relating to the protection by foreigners of native Moorish subjects.

I observe that Señor Mazo concluded his remarks to your Lordship by stating that "all the other Powers were willing to accept the invitation to the Conference," but I would inquire, did he include France?

As far as I understand the question, I have not the slightest doubt that France would be so on the basis of proposals Nos. 1 and 2, but would she be so ready to agree were the proposals Nos. 3 and 4 to be put to her? I fancy not, in view of the limitation she asks for, namely, that the protection question, and that alone, should form the subject of the deliberations at the Conference.

According to proposal No. 3, Señor Moret engages to let the Sultan know that the Conference can only be held on the basis of mutual concessions; and proposal No. 4 goes even further, and would make the abolition of the protection system conditional on the Sultan granting what is asked of him.

In the event of these two proposals being effectively carried out, I should see no reason why the Conference should not be held, but I have always been led to suppose by Señor Moret that it would not be possible to bind the Sultan down to what Señor Dado called, in his famous conversation with Sir K. Green, "bargaining about the abolition of protection," inasmuch as such action on his part would be distasteful not only to His Majesty the Sultan, but to his people also, and might even endanger the stability of his throne.

Now, then, does Señor Moret contemplate carrying out the last two named proposals and how would he propose to present them to the French Government for their acceptance?

I was ruffled with these thoughts when I accidentally met Señor Moret in the park this morning and had an interview with him. I did not conceal the doubt I entertained whether your Lordship would be prepared to agree to join a Conference on the basis of the Memorandum he had placed in my hands. I reminded him of the fact that Her Majesty's Government had notified their willingness to join the Conference, but that it must be "within a wide reference." I failed, I said, to see how that wide reference was provided for in any precise manner in his Memorandum. The matter, I said, was far too serious a one to trust to the *improviser*, and that leaving things to "hazard" did not commend itself to so practical a people as the English.

Señor Moret smiled and replied that he was fully aware of that, but, he added, "in this world something must always be left to chance." I rejoined that that entirely depended on the nature of the business on hand. Far better, I said, that all the points to be treated in the Conference should be agreed upon beforehand, in order that no misunderstanding might arise, and that everything should be conducted above board. No good result could be effected by a meeting of International Delegates were they to enter the Council Chamber oppressed by *arrêts-pensées*.

Señor Moret listened attentively to what I had said, and he told me that, as he was suffering from rheumatism, he purposed leaving Madrid next Tuesday, the 8th instant, for some baths in Spain, and that he would, in all probability, be absent for about ten days.

In the meantime, he said, nothing can be done further with respect to the Conference question, but he would still sound the French Government regarding it, and keep me informed as to what transpired.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 255.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 5, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 20 of the 1st instant, transmitting to me substance of Sir Kirby Green's telegram No. 24, relative to the present condition of the Sultan of Morocco's health, and to the alarm entertained by His Majesty as to the issue of the French Minister's visit to the Moorish Court, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Señor Moret told me a few days ago that he had heard that a perfect epidemic of fever had broken out in His Majesty's Palace, and that about fifteen persons had died of it, that His Majesty had constantly a relapse of fever, and that he was, moreover, suffering from an injury in the lower part of the body which he had received when riding from the pommel of his saddle, and which, to be thoroughly cured, might necessitate an operation.

As regarded the visit of the French Minister, Señor Moret informed me that he had heard that the Sultan was very desirous of getting rid of the French Military Commission, that Captain Schmidt is supposed to have been shot, by accident, when out on a fishing expedition, and that, although the Sultan was ready to pay an indemnity of 4,000*l.* in consequence of that occurrence, he would only do so on condition that the whole of the French Military Commission should leave Morocco.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 256.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 144. Secret.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 5, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of an article which appeared in this morning's edition of the "Imparcial," which is one of the most universally read newspapers in Madrid.

The writer quotes certain telegrams from Paris which were published in the Madrid evening papers on the 1st instant, reproducing a report which is said to have originated in Vienna, to the effect that Spain, under the auspices of Italy, was about to enter the triple alliance of Germany, Austria, and Italy. The writer expresses in strong terms any such course as that indicated being pursued by Spain, and affects to discredit the report in question.

I happened to meet Señor Moret shortly after this article had met my eyes, and I inquired of his Excellency what truth there was in the matter.

He replied that the article was not worth taking notice of, as it was a sort of newspaper "hallon d'essai." "There is no question," he said, "of Spain entering into such an alliance;" but on my remarking that I thought the article was likely to attract some attention abroad, and after some further conversation on the subject, he admitted that the Spanish Government had entered into an arrangement with the Powers mentioned. The matter, however, he said, was one of the greatest secrecy. That his Excellency should have confided this information to me was explained, in my opinion, by the fact that, as he told me, your Lordship was aware of it. Under these circumstances, I did not pursue the subject further, as I felt it would have been an indiscretion on my part to have done so. It would, moreover, have served no useful purpose, as no doubt your Lordship is familiar with all its details.

I cannot help thinking that the publication of this article must excite the suspicions of the French Ambassador here and arouse his fears as to this fresh symptom of the present state of isolation of his country in Europe.

An alliance between Spain and Germany means, to my mind, that should a war break out between Germany and France, an obligation would be imposed on the part of the latter Power to detach an army corps of at least 100,000 men to keep watch on the Pyrenean frontier.

What advantage Spain is to gain by such an alliance is more than I can say, but I conclude it would have reference to the Mediterranean in case Spanish interests should be menaced in that quarter.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Extract from "El Imparcial" of November 5, 1887

(Translation.)

**SPAIN AND THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE.**—The "République Française," "Le Gaulois," and, it may be, some other French papers, accept the news, derived from an Austrian source, of the intention of Spain to join the Triple Alliance.

If we take into consideration the temperament of the French press, it is quite possible that the news will give rise to a series of demonstrations and protests in Paris, but it is certain that the line of conduct laid down by national sentiment as that to be followed by Spain will not be affected thereby in the very least. Things would indeed be going badly with us, were we to allow ourselves to be moved by the attacks of the frivolous and irresponsible persons in France whose criticisms of foreign politics resemble those which they publish concerning the manners and customs prevailing on the other side of their frontiers. We have the highest respect for French statesmen and for France as a nation, but we have a very low opinion of the Paris press. We say this because it is necessary to distinguish between the sympathy we feel for the country and the little respect we feel for its press.

It is possible that the news took its origin in rash calculations. Perhaps it arose out of the indiscretion of a diplomatist, when speaking incidentally of matters of which an ad ad was formed many weeks ago. There is a possibility of insinuations having been let fall, and disguised offers made, by diplomatists and Ministers in the heat of friendly conversation; and such insinuations may have been put forth alternately in favour of one or other of the parties which divide Europe. All this is possible, but there is one assertion we can make with certainty, viz., that Spain neither has, nor is likely to have, any inclination to join either side as long as her interests and susceptibilities are respected. A departure from this policy of absolute neutrality would be contrary to the national spirit. The country would emphatically condemn any act which pointed to the remotest intention of coming to an understanding with Germany or with France, or any act even which would strain our relations with any nation, however powerful.

The rivalry between Germany and France has extended to all Europe. Throughout the Continent, all are friends of one or other of these countries. We have nothing to do with this rivalry, nor do we desire to have anything to do with it. It does not interest us directly, and it only affects us in so far as our sentiments are on general lines opposed to a European conflict, we are, and we heartily wish to continue to be, on the best possible terms with France and Italy, with England, with Germany, and with Austria, we have an equal esteem for the friendship of all these nations. We do not see any reason why we should abandon this attitude of salutary "bienveillance," in order to rush like lunatics into the whirlwind which is to-day driving hither and thither the best strength of Europe. The existing state of affairs can well be compared to an immense lottery, in which each nation backs its favourite number for enormous sums, and in which all the peoples of Europe, except Spain, Portugal, England, and the Scandinavian countries, which are geographically distant from the centre of the struggle, risk their independence against territorial advantages of doubtful realisation, and which in the end will be found to have been dearly bought.

It is only in the event of our interests in the Mediterranean and on the African coast being seriously threatened that a reaction could be brought about in public opinion in Spain, which would cause us to abandon our neutral attitude and to offer our alliance to that Power which would assist us in vindicating our violated rights.

At present, public opinion in Spain would receive with equal indifference offers on the part of Germany to make us masters of Tunis and to extend our dominion to Algiers itself, and offers coming from France to help us in the conquest of Morocco and to give up that Empire entirely to us. If, between the offers of Germany and those of France, Italy has chosen to accept those of the former, it is because she threw into the balance a great deal of national indignation against France on account of the conquest of Tunis. Our position is happily different. France is now a good friend of Spain, and we are certain that she is not going to quarrel with us over Morocco, and still less are we going to throw ourselves into the arms of the triple alliance, her enemy.

A cynical person might say that the best attitude for Spain to adopt is one of expectation, that she should await the European crisis in order to profit by the general confusion which will distract all the available forces of the nations, and that she may feel sure that as long as it is feared she may ally herself with the rival Power,

all will respect our rights and regard our interests: Germany and France are not nations likely to come to an agreement against anybody.

But there is no question of such a policy being adopted. Spain wishes simply to maintain herself in the happy state of exteriority due to her geographical position. She considers this exteriority as the greatest of blessings. She desires to be able to devote all her energies to her internal development and to be, as far as possible, the Belgium of the South; but not the Belgium of artificial frontiers, whose territorial integrity requires the guarantee of the nations and whose lot is compromised by the contingencies of the future war, but a Belgium strong in its strength, with the Pyrenees as a frontier, the sea as a horizon, and the resurrection of her ancient colonial glories as her purpose.

We speak thus because we are certain that no one will cause us to abandon our attitude of neutrality by attacking our interests in the Mediterranean. The French are the first to recognize that the conquest of Morocco is a very difficult task, and that its preservation is a more difficult one still, not to say impossible. It is a task which can only be accomplished by colonization, and there is only one nation in Europe which, if not at present, at any rate in the long run, is likely to have sufficient vitality and resources for such an enterprise, and that country is Spain.

No. 257.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 133. Confidential)

My Lord,

Tangier, October 31, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a letter and a Memorandum addressed to me by Sir John Drummond Hay regarding a conversation held by him and Señor Diosdado on Spanish policy in this country, and the political views of the Sultan as recently defined by His Shereefian Majesty to the Spanish Minister.

Most of the matter treated in Sir John Drummond Hay's Memorandum has frequently formed the subject of conversations between my Spanish colleague and myself, though I have not deemed it needful to report thereon to your Lordship in the form adopted by my predecessor.

I now, however, feel obliged to trespass on your Lordship's valuable time in order to explain that though Señor Diosdado's account of the language held to him by the Sultan is most interesting, still I do not consider that it can be accepted as a very close recital of Mulai Hassan's words. Señor Diosdado, I believe, has not intentionally misrepresented them; he has only attempted to point his own arguments by depicting them to Sir John Drummond Hay as being those also of the Sultan of Morocco.

Moreover, as the Spanish Minister does not know Arabic, and is therefore dependent on the services of M. Rinaldi, the First Interpreter of the Legation, who is thoroughly acquainted with his Chief's views, and who is, besides, a most intelligent man, it is possible he may have been led, whilst acting as the medium of carrying on a conversation between the Sultan and the Minister, to put the former's vague and floating ideas in a form which he knew would be pleasing to Señor Diosdado, and would not be repudiated by the Sultan if time was allowed to enable him to fathom the value and purport of the words which had been put in his mouth.

Besides, I must further point out to your Lordship that the Sultan and Señor Diosdado were neither of them in a position to discuss in August last the views of Her Majesty's Government on the question of assembling once more at Madrid a Conference for modifying the Convention of 1880, and the proposal for securing the neutralization of Morocco.

On the contrary, both Mulai Hassan and Señor Diosdado were at that time aware that the question of putting a term to the abuses of protection of natives under the Convention of 1880 had been first mooted by me, the English Representative, and then been supported by the German Charge d'Affaires, and lately adopted by the Spanish and Italian Ministers. Neither the Sultan nor Señor Diosdado had any grounds for believing that anything else but support would be afforded by Her Majesty's Government to an effort to free this Empire from abuses which it had deprecated and combated from the first moment of their birth.

Indeed, so certain was Señor Diosdado of general support that he obtained the Moorish note to carry with him to Madrid asking the Spanish Government to assume

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the initiative for convoking a second Conference to modify the work of the one held in 1880.

Therefore, that Her Majesty's Government "has not supported the proposal to have the revision of the Madrid Convention to abolish the abuses of protection" is language which cannot be attributed to the Sultan at the time when Señor Diosdado held his conversations with His Majesty at Rabat.

It was only after Señor Diosdado had gone to Madrid to report the result of his mission to the Moorish Court that I received your Lordship's instructions to discuss with my Spanish, Italian, and German colleagues the most advantageous manner of treating the question of the abolition of foreign protection of natives in this country.

As for the proposal for securing the neutralization of Morocco, it was a mine sprung entirely and solely by Señor Diosdado (vide my No. 128, Confidential, of the 24th ultimo), so that if it fails in the results expected by him from it, the Spanish Government can only blame itself for having permitted its Representative to engage the Sultan in the operation without first consulting on the matter with the Governments which it knows are at one with it as to guarding the independence and territorial integrity of this country.

I trust I am not wrong in believing that your Lordship will find that most of the subjects treated on in my predecessor's Memorandum have already been sufficiently reported to your Lordship in my past dispatches, and that no obstacles have been raised by me against a practical solution of the many abuses and political difficulties which exist in this country.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 257

Sir J. Drummond Hay to Sir W. K. Green

My dear Green,

Tangier, October 31, 1887.

I ENCLOSE the accompanying Memorandum of a conversation I have had with M. Diosdado, which I think may be of interest.

I had been, as you may remember, on the most friendly and intimate terms with him both as a colleague and a sportsman for upwards of twenty years, and I have always entertained a very high opinion of him as an honourable man, though I have not sometimes concurred in his views about this country. I have never discovered that M. Diosdado deceived me or attempted to mislead me regarding the policy he pursued in dealing with this Government or ever in his communications with and from the Government at Madrid, which he was wont occasionally to put into my hands under promise of secrecy—saying, "Between us, *carter sur table*."

I desire to mention that on my arrival here I had distinctly told him, the Moorish Minister, and other officials that I had come to pass the winter at my villa on the hill; that I had no official character or mission whatever, as some Spanish journals insinuate; and that it was my intention to abstain from mixing myself up in any affairs, though I should always continue to take a lively interest in the fate of Morocco.

I told M. Diosdado that you were an old friend of mine, as he must be aware, and that I had a high opinion of your capacity as the British Representative, and I was pleased to learn that he and you were on pleasant terms.

I do not repeat here the language I held to him in replying to his account of an interview with the Sultan, &c., as it will be found in the Memorandum.

Ever yours, &c.  
(Signed) J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 257.

Memorandum of a Conversation by Sir J. Drummond Hay with M. Diosdado, the Spanish Minister.

IN the course of conversation, having observed that it would appear from articles I had read in foreign journals that the Spanish Government, on hearing of the serious illness and expected demise of Sultan Mula Hassan, had taken active steps to assemble a large force at Cadiz, &c., to reinforce the African garrisons, or even, as it was supposed,

to disembark troops to take possession of Tangier or other parts of the coast on the straits, in case of the collapse of all government on the Sultan's death, and thus to forestall France in her ambitious projects, or, on the other hand, as alleged by some papers, that a secret understanding exists between France and Spain to act together and partition Morocco, M. Diosdado replied that he would assure me in the most categorical manner that he had not the slightest knowledge of his Government having come to any understanding with France for such a purpose, and that if, at any time, it was proposed to adopt such a course, he would send in his resignation, for he considered it would be fatal to Spanish interests, as France, if such a division of Morocco as I described took place, would on the first opportunity seek for some pretext to quarrel with and oust Spain to carry out the ambitious projects, long entertained, of becoming master of the Straits and Mediterranean coast from Cape Spartel to Tripoli, that with regard to the alleged desire of Spain to take possession of territory in Morocco he said there was no doubt such foolish views had been and were still held by thoughtless and ignorant Spaniards; but, M. Diosdado continued, such Quixotic ideas are no longer entertained by statesmen of character at Madrid, that he had not altered the views he held on this subject when he accepted the post of Minister at Tangier, which were, as he said I must remember from his past language to me and the confidential correspondence he had shown me, to uphold the integrity of Morocco and independence of the Sultan, and to watch with vigilance, and thwart, as far as it was in their power, the fixed aim of France to become master of this country, either by conquest or through a Protectorate, that the grounds on which he was utterly opposed to Spain attempting to take possession of territory in Morocco were that he considered it would be a gigantic enterprise, which would cost millions of money and an enormous sacrifice of life, that though a comparatively small force of disciplined troops might be able to march and rout the hordes opposed to them, they could only hold fortified posts or towns, and that once the warlike and fanatical feelings of the brave inhabitants of Morocco were roused against the Christian invaders, it would be a hopeless task to attempt to cultivate or even to occupy land beyond the range of guns in fortifications, or to derive the slightest benefit either from agriculture or commerce; whilst Spain, which, he said, has been making great progress of late years, would be thrown back into a deplorable state from the ruin of her finances by a heavy and unprofitable expenditure.

If asked, M. Diosdado continued, what then means the attitude and warlike preparations of his Government, his reply is that neither England nor any one of the Great Powers appear to have any fixed policy regarding the fate of Morocco, and have not come forward to declare their intention of maintaining its integrity or to prevent France from assuming a Protectorate as at Tunis; that this question being one of vital importance to Spain she could not remain unprepared if France, under the pretext of preventing a state of anarchy on the apprehended demise of the Sultan, had marched an army to Fez or attempted to seize by *coup d'etat* the glen or other Moorish port, that the Spanish force had therefore been assembled to show France and to the world they would oppose *coute que coute*, such projects of conquest. M. Diosdado added, Spain could not exist with France at the Pyrenees and France on the African shores of the Straits. It would be like wheat between an upper and lower millstone. England he continued, with her indecision and vacillation, is the cause of all this, for she still hesitates about coming to an understanding with other Powers about holding a Conference where an understanding might be come to which would aid in warding off the serious complications and danger of a general war which may any day arise from a Morocco question; that if France refused to join such a Conference or that she would respect the integrity of Morocco, then she would have been compelled to show her hand, and the other Powers would be justified in coming to a clear understanding, and let France know that they would never consent to the annexation or Protectorate of Morocco.

The Protectorate, M. Diosdado told me, would have been effected through the able and subtle management of M. Feraud when he last arrived at the Moorish Court had he (M. Diosdado) not arrived and prevented it. The language that had been held by the Sultan to him (M. Diosdado), whom he considered to be a man of considerable ability, was:—

"The French Minister has evinced the greatest deference to us (Sultan) upon frontier and other questions, and an anxious desire has been shown by him (M. Feraud) to uphold our authority and to oppose nefarious claims trumped up by protected Jews and others. He urged upon us the importance of becoming more closely allied, and that by agreeing to admit the guidance and directions of France in all questions with other foreign Powers we (the Sultan) should ward off the danger, which is incurred by a different policy, of France marching some day an army of 100,000 men across the interior and occupying

our capital; that Féraud had declared he would assist us in doing away with abuses in protection, and aid in the introduction of improvements and of developing the resources of our dominions without imposing on us measures which might give offence to our subjects."

The Sultan said that no reliance can be placed by us in other Powers, even those whom we and our ancestors had always looked to for advice and defence in case of threats of aggression. "England," said the Sultan, "is only powerful by her navy; she has no army to stop an invasion. She might bombard a port or ports. She has not supported the proposal to have a revision of the Madrid Convention to abolish the abuses of protection, which have tended to paralyze and will eventually destroy all government in the country. England requires that a new Convention of Commerce should be concluded and the country opened up to commerce before she will consider the question of protection, whereas if we agree to this the fact of commerce being extended will cause an increase of the abuses of protection to such a degree as may render, under the pretext of assuring the security of commercial agents &c., the abolition of existing abuses impossible. Should the questions of protection, our independence as Sultan, and the integrity of our dominions be assured, then the removal of restrictions on exports, which are said to prevent the development of trade, can be taken into consideration and be gradually effected."

"Then as to Italy," said the Sultan, "we have no faith in her coming to our rescue in a moment of danger. She failed in coming forward to prevent Tunis falling into the hands of France, though Tunis was a country of still greater importance to Italian interests than Morocco; moreover, Italy had rather backed France in the abuses of protection."

"As to Germany," said the Sultan, "she takes no interest in what may happen here, and would not object to see our dominions taken possession of by a foreign Power. Germany desires the development of commerce, but for other matters are settled, but we look first to the integrity of our dominions being maintained, and the commercial question can follow when that is settled."

"Spain," continued the Sultan, "may have friendly views and intentions, but she has not sufficient forces at her command to aid in repelling a French invasion of 100,000 men."

We have consulted our chief officers and 'colama' (wise men) in various parts of our dominions, and their reply has been of a nature which entirely coincides with the conclusion we have come to, which is, to seek to conciliate and satisfy the wishes of a Power that can, at any moment, crush us, but which by words as well as deeds of its present Envoy (M. Féraud) have evinced a very friendly and conciliatory policy, and a desire to uphold our authority and to strengthen the bonds of friendship between us should we agree to submit to their counsels and guidance in all questions with foreign Powers."

M. Diodado informed me that, in replying to the Sultan, he pointed out that the proposals made by France were of an insidious character, her aim being to assume a Protectorate with His Majesty's consent, which would be gradually converted into a complete control of all affairs, not only in questions with other foreign Powers, but also in home affairs; and then would follow, as has happened in Tunis and elsewhere, the absorption of all government by France, and Morocco be finally annexed. M. Diodado said he took a long time to make the Sultan comprehend the danger he incurred by listening to the insidious proposals of M. Féraud. On the Sultan asking him for advice as to the course to be pursued to attain the object he had in view, M. Diodado said he had recommended that notice should be dispatched by His Majesty to all the Powers, proposing a Conference for abrogating the Treaty of Madrid, and thereby the abolition of the present abusive system of protection to Moorish subjects, and that an understanding should be come to by the Powers to maintain the integrity of Morocco. The Sultan agreed, and the notes, as I understand from M. Diodado, were dispatched.

England, continued M. Diodado, will upset all by her refusal to join, as it is alleged, such a Conference. England requires that first the Commercial Convention should be concluded. England thus is playing into the hands of France, and now M. Féraud has hurried to the Moorish Court on the pretext of settling a claim for an indemnity for the French officer who was murdered by rebels, which claim is already settled and paid. But the real object of M. Féraud's mission is to seek again to convince the Sultan that he had better agree to place himself in the hands of France, the only Power, as he tells the Sultan, who can protect him from the designs and demands of other Powers.

On my replying to M. Diodado, I premised by repeating that whatever I might say was to be considered as if spoken by any other private individual who had no official character in this country. I said that I found the language which had been held to him

by the Sultan showed remarkable sagacity, and even logic, for a man who had seen nothing of the civilized world, yet, that had such language been held to me by His Majesty when in office, I should have declared clearly that even if His Majesty and France were to come to an understanding, and that His Majesty accepted the Protectorate, or guidance of France in questions with foreign Powers, it would not be recognized by Great Britain or by other Powers, and the whole arrangement would therefore be null and void; that His Majesty would have given thereby strong grounds for displeasure on the part of those Powers who have hitherto been his best friends, and that they would consequently be prone to treat His Majesty in any question which may arise in a very different spirit.

That, in replying to the arguments His Majesty had brought forward about the military power of France, and that neither England, Italy, nor Spain could send forces to stop an invasion of 100,000 men, I should have pointed out that France would never be so rash as to attempt the conquest of Morocco unless it was done with the acquiescence of the other Great Powers; and that though Great Britain had not a large military force, France knew that in past wars waged against England she had lost her Colonies, and that she would run the risk of losing both Algiers and Tunis if England, with her superior navy, blockaded the ports of those countries and encouraged a rising of the Mohammedans against the French.

M. Diodado observed that England was in a very different position to what she was in days of yore; that the press and outcry of the ignorant public guided the House of Commons and their foreign policy. I replied that the very existence of England depends upon the freedom of navigation; she could not and would not consent that France or other Great Power should be able to command the channel of communication with the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. If she did so, her action in the East and the sacrifice of money and men which had been made would be of no avail; but he might rest assured that the good sense of the British public would support any Government in power, even in a declaration of war, if there was a question which involved the freedom of our navigation.

I observed to M. Diodado that I should regret very much if the Great Powers, England included, did not take an early opportunity, after the late scare, to come to an understanding about the future of Morocco, so as to ward off the serious complications and danger of war which would again be incurred on the death of a Sultan or a revolution in Morocco.

I told M. Diodado I concurred with him, therefore, in thinking that it would be politic and advisable on every account to settle, in the first place, the question regarding the abuses of protection, and that the question of the integrity of Morocco should also be settled. This done, the Powers might join in pointing out to the Sultan the advantageous position he was placed in, and the great benefits he had derived, and we requiring or even insisting that His Majesty should gradually seek to reform the wretched administration of his Government—to remove restrictions on exports, and thus develop the resources of this rich but benighted country.

I told M. Diodado that I should communicate to Sir William Kirby Green the conversation that had passed between us.

M. Diodado, on my taking leave, repeated in emphatic language that there was no probability of Spain coming to a secret understanding with France for a partition of Morocco, but, should I, at any time, hear of his having resigned, that I then might have grounds for suspecting that some such understanding had been come to, as he would not in such a case remain as Spanish Minister at Tangier.

(Signed)

J. H. DRUMMOND HAY.

Tangier, October 31, 1887.

M. Diodado said he probably might revisit the Court if he heard the Sultan was entertaining M. Féraud's proposals.

J. H. D. H.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.\**

(No. 30)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, November 10, 1887, 1:50 p.m.*

[Rejoins Sir W. K. Green's telegram No. 25 of November 8: *ante*, No. 247].

Ask Government to which you are accredited whether information reported is in accordance with that received by them, and whether they consider that ships may be safely withdrawn.

No. 259.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.†*

(No. 045. Ext. 30.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office November 10, 1887.*

I HAVE been informed by Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier that the Sultan of Morocco is now completely restored to health, and that he does not consider that there is any further need for the presence of ships of war at Gibraltar. I have accordingly to request to inquire of the Government to which you are accredited whether this information is in accordance with that which they have received, and whether they are of opinion that the foreign ships of war may be safely withdrawn under the circumstances.

The substance of the foregoing was sent to you this day by telegraph

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 260

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 02. Confidential)

*Foreign Office, November 10, 1887*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 135 and 137, Confidential, of October 28, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 232 and 233]

No. 261

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, November 10, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 135, Confidential, of October 28, 1887: *ante*, No. 232]

No. 262

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, November 10, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 131 of October 30, 1887: *ante*, No. 244.]

\* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 100), Mr. Phipps (No. 100), Sir J. Savile (No. 4), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 22).

† Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 501), Mr. Phipps (No. 104), Sir J. Savile (No. 319), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 163).

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11, 4:45 p.m.)*

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Madrid, November 11, 1887, 1:30 p.m.*

I LEARN from a trustworthy source that on the 25th ultimo Count Bismarck, when speaking to the Spanish Minister at Berlin on the subject of the proposed Conference, stated that he thought it might be possible to reconcile the divergent views which appeared to exist respecting it.

The French Government insisted on a strict limitation of its discussion to the protection question, whilst Her Majesty's Government required a wider reference.

Count Bismarck said that, in his opinion, some middle course might be adopted which would ease the block to the meeting of the Conference, and that the difficulty might perhaps be overcome were Her Majesty's Government to declare that they would not carry into execution any decision which might be arrived at in the Conference relative to protection of natives unless the Sultan of Morocco were to concede, on his part, the commercial advantages desired by Great Britain.

Count Bismarck informed the Spanish Minister that he would speak on the subject to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin.

No. 264

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)*

(No. 134. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, November 2, 1887*

HAVING had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegraphic communication of yesterday evening concerning the assembling of a second Conference at Madrid on the subject of foreign protection of natives in Morocco, as also copies of the prints from your Lordship's Department on Moroccan affairs, I this morning called on Señor Diodado to explain to him that I had been much pleased to note that there appeared to be no marked divergence between Spanish and English views on the question to be decided by the projected Conference on the political state of this country.

After mentioning to my Spanish colleague that your Lordship had expressed the willingness of Her Majesty's Government to join the proposed Conference, I said I was sorry to observe that an impression existed at Madrid (vide Sir Clare Ford's despatch to your Lordship No. 116 of the 2nd October) that I was of opinion that the granting of trade facilities ought to precede any question of assembling a Conference, whilst in fact I only contended, as Señor Moret does also, that the contemplated negotiations of the privileges of protection should be carried out simultaneously with trade reforms.

Señor Diodado admitted that I was in accord with the declarations of the Spanish Minister of State, but he himself was still of the belief, emitted by him from the beginning, that it would be useless for a Conference to meet on such a basis. Señor Diodado maintains that, unless the Conference meets simply and solely for the purpose of abolishing the abuses of foreign protection of natives, it will prove abortive, as he has reason to know that the Sultan will not be in a position to enter into any engagements about commercial or other reforms in Morocco. Señor Diodado wishes the Conference to meet with a complete confidence in Mulai Hassan's good intentions, which must be allowed their own time to ripen into accomplished facts.

The only remark that I can make to these declarations is that I am as convinced as Señor Diodado may be on his side that if the Sultan is left a free hand he will do absolutely nothing now or in the future to increase his intercourse with abroad, or to improve his judicial institutions. I must further add that I have a very strong belief in the restraining influences of a public opinion in Morocco over the Sultan's actions, to which my Spanish colleague attaches the greatest importance. In this country, as long as a man is accepted as a Sultan, he can exercise his power unquestioned in whatever manner he may consider most politic, convenient, and pleasant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

*Mr. Phipps to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)*

(No. 583. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Vienna, November 4, 1887.*

COUNT KÁLNOKY informed me this afternoon that a suggestion similar to that referred to in your Lordship's telegram No. 98 of the 1st instant had been made here by M. Merry del Val in regard to a Conference to consider the Sultan of Morocco's demand for a modification of the Madrid Convention of 1880.

His Excellency said that Austria-Hungary remained quite in the background in regard to Morocco questions, but that out of deference to the Spanish Government he was quite prepared to promote and to take part in a Conference on the principle desired by Spain. What he had said to Her Majesty's Ambassador recently (as reported in Sir A. Paget's despatch No. 363 of the 20th ultimo) represented the ideas of this Government as to Morocco questions.

Count Kálnoky had, however, advised the Spanish Government in this matter to come to a prior understanding with the Governments of Italy and Great Britain, the Powers chiefly interested in this question, and observed to me that France had apparently endeavoured to entangle Spain into making a separate arrangement, but the Spaniards had been too clever to be taken in.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

No. 266.

[Nil]

No. 267.

*Mr. Phipps to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)*

(No. 303. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Vienna, November 9, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch to Sir Augustus Paget No. 190, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, instructing his Excellency to communicate confidentially to Count Kálnoky your Lordship's note to M. Catalani of the 4th ultimo and your despatch to Mr. Kennedy No. 293 and to Sir Edward Malet No. 475, and also to show to his Excellency your Lordship's despatch to Sir W. Kirby Green No. 63, all relating to the affairs of Morocco.

Count Kálnoky having just previously, in conversation with me, referred to the affairs of that country (as reported in my despatch No. 383, Confidential, of the 4th instant), and it being very difficult for foreign Representatives, except for urgent reasons, to see Count Kálnoky during the first few days of the Delegation Sessions in consequence of his Excellency's time being entirely taken up, I ventured to transmit to his Excellency a short précis which I drew up of the leading points in the despatches above mentioned, informing him in a private letter that I should be ready to communicate them confidentially whenever it might be convenient.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)*

(No. 455.)

My Lord,

*Paris, November 11, 1887.*

IN conformity with the instructions contained in your Lordship's cyphered telegram No. 89, received this morning, I informed M. Flourens to-day of the favourable account of the Sultan of Morocco's health given by Sir W. Kirby Green, and asked him whether he considered that the ships of war might now safely be withdrawn from the Morocco coast.

His Excellency said his news was the same as that of Her Majesty's Minister, that the French iron-clad had already left the Moorish coast, and that the "Aviso" would receive orders to follow her example.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 269.

*Sir Clara Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)*

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Madrid, November 11, 1887.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 22.

Minister for Foreign Affairs absent from Madrid, but I am informed by Under-Secretary of State as follows:—

The news received by the Spanish Government relative to the state of health of the Sultan of Morocco is excellent, and the Spanish Government has withdrawn its men-of-war from the coast of Morocco during the last few days.

No. 270.

*Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12, 6 P.M.)*

(No. 87.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Berlin, November 12, 1887, 5.21 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 109 of the 10th.

Morocco: German Government has same information, and leaves question of withdrawal of ships to your Lordship's judgment.

No. 271.

*Mr. Phipps to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12, 10.30 P.M.)*

(No. 71.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Vienna, November 12, 1887, 8.45 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 100: Morocco.

Count Kálnoky sees no objection to withdrawal of ships. Austrian vessels had only cruised in Spanish waters within reach. His accounts describe Sultan as bewildered and uneasy at presence of foreign squadron.

(Confidential.)

His Excellency had also learned Russia was making difficulties in regard to Conference on remarkable plea of question interesting her greatly on account of her large Mahomedan population.

No. 272.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir L. West.*

(No. 270. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, November 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's No. 124 of October 20; and No. 89 to ditto, dated November 1, 1887: ante, Nos. 212 and 231.]

No. 273.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. E. Green.*

(No. 98.)

*Foreign Office, November 12, 1887*

[Transmits copies of No. 155 to Sir Clare Ford of October 28; Mr Egerton's No. 432 of November 2; Señor del Mazo's letter, communicated November 4; Sir Clare Ford's No. 22, Telegraphic, November 3; and Consul Payton's No. 28 of October 25, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 215, 239, 240, 241, and 242.]

No. 274.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.**Foreign Office, November 12, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Payton's No. 26 of October 25, 1887: *ante*, No. 242.]

No. 275.

*Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)*

(No. 431. Ext. 57)

My Lord,

*Berlin, November 12, 1887.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 109 of the 10th instant on the subject of Morocco, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the German Government have received the same information as to the Sultan's restoration to health as Her Majesty's Government.

They are willing to leave the question of withdrawing the ships to the discretion of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 276.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, November 14, 1887, 3.40 P.M.*

YOUR despatches Nos. 141 and 142

Her Majesty's Government are not insensible to the existence of just causes of complaint, though certain precautions may be necessary if the existing system is interfered with. But unless there be a preliminary inquiry and Report by the foreign Representatives at Tangier as to the extent of the abuse of the protection system, and the limit which can safely be imposed on it, the assembling of a Conference to deal with the protection question only offers but little prospect of a satisfactory solution.

The Report of the Representatives could be obtained at once, and would probably contain suggestions and recommendations which might lead to practical results at Madrid.

Ascertain whether this meets the views of the Spanish Government.

No. 277.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 168. Ext. 24.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 14, 1887.*

I HAVE read with attention your despatches Nos. 141 and 142 of the 3rd and 5th instant respectively, relative to the Conference proposed to be held at Madrid on the affairs of Morocco.

That the system of protection, actually practised in Morocco, has afforded just grounds of complaint, is a fact to which Her Majesty's Government are by no means insensible.

It is, however, to be borne in mind that, if this system be interfered with, certain precautions may become necessary in view of the new state of things which would arise upon its abolition or modification.

It appears to me that unless, as a preliminary step, the foreign Representatives at Tangier be instructed to inquire into and report upon the extent to which the protection system has been abused, and the limit which can safely be imposed upon it, the assembling of a Conference to deal with that question only would offer but little prospect of a satisfactory solution.

Such a Report could doubtless be prepared without much loss of time, and it is probable that it would contain suggestions and recommendations which might lead to practical results at Madrid.

I have accordingly to request that you will ascertain from the Spanish Government whether the step to which I have referred would be in consonance with their wishes.

The substance of the above despatch has been forwarded to you by telegraph to-day.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 278.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Savile.*

(No. 98.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, November 14, 1887, 6.15 P.M.*

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires showed me a telegram from Signor Crispi, stating that France was pressing Spain to agree to a partition of Morocco which should give the south to France, the northern and north-western seaboard to Spain, but that Spain was refusing, and would refuse. He added that it was a case of necessity in this matter. I thanked him, and said I should do so with readiness if there were signs of Spain's entering into such an engagement. It would then be necessary for Italy and England to bring strong pressure to bear on Spain to uphold the *status quo*.

No. 279.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Savile.*

(No. 326. Ext. 98.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 14, 1887.*

M. CATALANI called at the Foreign Office to-day and showed me a telegram he had received from Signor Crispi, stating that the French Government was putting pressure on that of Spain in order to induce the latter to agree to a partition of Morocco, the arrangement to be that the southern part of the States a priori should be given to France, and the northern and north-western seaboard to Spain; but it appeared that Spain had refused to be a party to this agreement, and was likely to continue maintaining that refusal.

M. Catalani stated that he had been instructed to offer to concert with Her Majesty's Government in this matter, in case of necessity. I thanked M. Catalani for his offer, and stated that Her Majesty's Government would willingly accept it if they saw any signs of such an agreement being entered into by Spain.

I added that it would then become necessary for the Governments of Italy and Great Britain to bring strong pressure to bear on the Spanish Government to maintain the *status quo* in Morocco.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 280.

*Sir W. E. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15)*

(No. 136. Ext. 25.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, November 6, 1887.*

HAVING yesterday afternoon received information under date of the 2nd instant from Mequinez that the Sultan is completely convalescent and that business is daily transacted by His Shercofan Majesty as heretofore, I this morning had the honour of telegraphing to your Lordship that I considered there was no further need for holding in



readiness at Gibraltar, for service in Maroccan waters, Her Majesty's ships "Edinburgh" and "Gannet."

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

## No. 281.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 16, 5.30 P.M.)

(No. 26.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, November 16, 1887, 8 P.M.

WITH reference to 7th and 8th paragraphs of Sir C. Ford's despatch No. 122 to your Lordship of the 18th ultimo.

Thursday last the Moorish authorities received information that two Spanish steamers had landed building material and men on Perejul Islands near apices [?] of bill. Messengers returned thence yesterday reporting flag-staff only on island, with a notice-board claiming island to be Spanish. Spanish Minister has authorized Moors to destroy all buildings, &c., that may have been erected, and even to arrest Spaniards who may land and claim possession. He also declares to me that Spanish Government is a complete stranger to whatever may have occurred.

## No. 282.

Sir C. Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 16, 5.30 P.M.)

(No. 26.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, November 16, 1887, 2.30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 24.

Señor Moret does not return to Madrid until this evening, as a Council of Ministers is to be held to-morrow. I do not expect to see him before Friday next.

## No. 283.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.

(No. 94. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 16, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Memorandum communicated by Baron de Biegeleben, November 2; and Sir Clare Ford's No. 143, Confidential, of November 5, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 254 and 255.]

## No. 284.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.

(No. 95. Secret.)

Foreign Office, November 16, 1887.

[Transmits copy of telegram No. 24 to Sir Clare Ford, dated November 14, 1887: *ante*, No. 276.]

## No. 285.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 16, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Sir W. K. Green's No. 131 of October 30, 1887: *ante*, No. 244.]

## No. 286.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.\*

Foreign Office, November 16, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Consul Payton's No. 27, Consular, of October 23, 1887: *ante*, No. 248.]

\* Also to War Office and Admiralty.

## No. 287.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 27.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, November 16, 1887.

IN the absence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I am informed by the Under-Secretary that the Spanish Ambassador, when taking leave in Paris of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, was told by the latter that he thought that the deliberations of the proposed Conference on Moorish affairs could not be limited to a consideration of the protection question only.

## No. 288.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 172.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 17, 1887.

SEÑOR DEL MAZO called at the Foreign Office to-day and said that M. Flourons, French Minister for Foreign Affairs, had stated to Señor Albareda, the ex-Spanish Ambassador in Paris, that M. Waddington would be instructed to confer with me as to the basis of the proposed Conference at Madrid on the affairs of Morocco, and the terms of the invitation to be addressed to the foreign Governments.

Señor del Mazo inquired whether such communication had been made, to which I replied in the negative.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY

## No. 289.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 18, 11 P.M.)

(No. 28.)  
(Telegraphic.)

Madrid, November 18, 1887, 6.10 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 24 of 14th instant.

Minister for Foreign Affairs accepts in principle the suggestion contained in it.

He observes, however, that in accepting it he assumes that it is to be clearly understood, when the Report of the foreign Representatives at Tangier is received, the Conference at Madrid will be convoked.

On learning your Lordship's opinion on this point, Minister for Foreign Affairs would then confer with the Representatives of the foreign Powers at Madrid whom it is proposed to invite to the Conference, in order to obtain through them the consent of their respective Governments to the suggestion contained in your telegram.

Minister for Foreign Affairs further stated, if your Lordship's suggestion is carried out, a term should be fixed at which the Representatives at Tangier are to send in their Report, and he considered that a period of one month would give them ample time.

Should your Lordship's programme be carried out, Minister for Foreign Affairs thought the Conference might perhaps assemble at Madrid early in March next year.

## No. 290.

Mr. Phipps to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 400. Ext. 71.)

My Lord,

Vienna, November 12, 1887.

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 100 I wrote to Count Kalnoky, stating the reasons for which Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that the ships of war of the Powers might be withdrawn from Morocco waters, and asking his Excellency to favour me with his opinion.

I was only able to-day to see his Excellency, who read to me portions of the last despatch which he had received from the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Tangier, dated

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about the end of October. It described the Sultan as still suffering from severe illness, and stated that His Majesty was reported to be uneasy at the presence of foreign ships of war in his territorial waters, and bewildered to account for the cause.

Count Kálnoky observed that our information was obviously of subsequent date, and that he had no objection whatever to offer to the withdrawal of the ships in general, remarking that the Austrian ships, indeed, had only been cruising within reach in Spanish waters.

He was, he added, the more of this opinion, inasmuch as he suspected that the Spaniards, incited by their southern blood, had taken up the matter altogether too warmly and made too much of it.

Count Kálnoky also informed me that he had learned confidentially that Russia was making difficulties about the proposed Conference, on the somewhat remarkable plea that the Morocco question was one of special interest to her, in consequence of her large Mahomedan population.

He finally said that on a future occasion he would speak to me further on the Morocco question when he had studied the précis of the despatches referring to it which I had transmitted to him, as he really had found no time to devote to the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

#### No. 291.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)*

(No. 147.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 16, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 122, Confidential, of the 18th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of a telegram which appeared this morning in the "Imparcial" newspaper, dated London, the 15th November, together with certain comments which are made in the paper relative to the news contained therein.

I have no doubt that the island concerning which the French Ambassador spoke to me is the Island of Peregil.

A report of anything which may have transpired there will, I conclude, have reached your Lordship's hands from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

#### Inclosure in No. 291.

*Extract from "El Imparcial" of November 16, 1887.*

(Through Fabra's Agency.)

(Translation.)

London, November 15, 1887 (by Cable and Vique)

SPAIN AND THE ISLAND OF PEREGIL.—A telegram of Reuter's Agency, published in this evening's papers and dated this day at Tangier, states that a rumour is in circulation there to the effect that the Spaniards have taken possession of the Island of Peregil which lies to the north-west of Ceuta.

It adds that the Spaniards propose to construct a lighthouse on the island in question, and that the news has produced a great sensation in Tangier.

With regard to the last phrase, the English origin of the telegram must be taken into account.

The news that Spain has taken possession of the Island of Peregil has produced a great sensation at Tangier, according to the Fabra Agency.

The information of the Agency must contain an exaggeration, or the people of Tangier must become alarmed without any necessity for being so.

Spain does not need to take possession of the Island of Peregil for the simple reason that the island is Spanish, and this is a fact known to all the world.

It will probably be found that Spain has sent a detachment to the island, or, as the London telegram suggests, that she proposes building a lighthouse there.

The Island of Peregil lies to the west of Punta Leona, and therefore some distance to the west of Ceuta.

#### No. 292.

*Sir J. Savile to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19, 5.30 P.M.)*

(No. 55.)

(Telegraphic.)

Rome, November 18, 1887.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 95: Morocco.

The Italian Government consider special measures of precaution no longer needful, and have ordered withdrawal of two ships of war, leaving one iron-clad till further orders.

#### No. 293.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 98. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 19, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Mr. Phipps' No. 383, Confidential, of November 4, 1887: ante, No. 205.]

#### No. 294.

*Foreign Office to War Office.\**

Foreign Office, November 19, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 11 of October 6, 1887: ante, No. 144<sup>a</sup>.]

#### No. 295.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)*

(No. 149.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 17, 1887

WITH reference to my despatch No. 147 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of an article, and also of a telegram from Tangier, the latter signed by one of the well-known editors of the "Imparcial" newspaper, Señor Artega Munilla, who is at present at Tangier, which appeared in this morning's edition of the "Imparcial."

Your Lordship will perceive from the article that, according to the writer of it, Spain maintains that the Island of Peregil has belonged to her ever since she acquired Ceuta from the Portuguese, whilst from Señor Munilla's telegram your Lordship will gather that the Moors do not appear to consider that the Spaniards have a right to the island at all, and that they sent a Commission to the island to plant the Moorish standard on it, although they respected the existence of a board they found stuck up in the deserted island on which was affixed a placard stating that the island was Spanish property.

I have no means of forming any opinion on the merits of this question, with the history of which I am unacquainted, nor have I in my possession any Map on which the island in question is marked.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

#### Inclosure in No. 295.

*Extract from "El Imparcial" of November 17, 1887.*

(Translation.)

THE ISLAND OF PEREGIL.—All the telegraphic notices received here agree in affirming that the determination of Spain to erect a lighthouse on the Island of Peregil has caused a great sensation at Tangier.

\* Also to Admiralty.

The Moors are an impressionable people, and the members of the European and Jewish Colonies established at Tangier are much given to exaggeration. We are thus able to understand how so simple a proceeding on the part of Spain as the exercise of sovereignty over a territory, with regard to which neglect does not by any means signify abandonment, should have served as the point of departure for a series of impossible fancies and suppositions, which, were there any foundation for them, would mean nothing less than the beginning of a conflict between Spain and Morocco.

Fortunately, Spain has not for a moment passed beyond the limits of rights which are universally and expressly recognized as pertaining to her, nor in the present state of the relations existing between Spain and Morocco is there any possibility of such a conflict arising as that imagined at Tangier, and which formed the subject of the telegram.

We stated yesterday that the Island of Peregil belongs to Spain. The circumstances under which our sovereignty over that island was recognized, and the motives which have impelled the Spanish Government to make use of that dependency at the present moment, are as follows—

In the year 1848, in consequence of acts of hostilities committed by the Moors living in the districts bordering on Ceuta, the Cabinet presided over by General Narvaez entered into negotiations with the Sultan of Morocco for the purpose of fixing the neutral zone of our fortress on the Straits, and of establishing an effective guarantee against all attacks on Spanish detachments and sentinels.

The demand of the Government in question was made with so much energy, and so determined was the attitude taken up with regard to the observance of due respect towards our possessions, that the Emperor of Morocco himself came to the neighbourhood of Ceuta, and there, in agreement with the Spanish authorities, fixed the strip of territory which was considered as the zone surrounding the fortress in dispute, Spain's right of possession being recognized as extending as far as the neighbouring heights of Jadu.

The British Government, which had quarrelled with ours in consequence of the action taken by General Narvaez against the Minister Plenipotentiary of England in Madrid, was secretly intervening in these negotiations, and was stirring up the passions of the Moors against the Spanish pretensions.

The British Government, on seeing that it was clear that the Sultan intended to satisfy the demands of the Madrid Government, tried to ignore our rights over the Island of Peregil, and sought to occupy it with forces detached from the garrison of Gibraltar.

The Government of the Duke of Valencia, on becoming aware of these intentions, ordered the Commander-in-chief of Ceuta to hold troops in readiness for the occupation of the island. One of the battalions of the garrison was embarked in obedience to these instructions, and this force was intended for the Island of Peregil—a measure which gave occasion to the English Cabinet to protest diplomatically.

The negotiations proceeded, our Government showed that its rights over the island dated from the time of the cession of Ceuta by the Portuguese; the sovereignty of Spain was fully proved, being recognized to exist in the same form as in the case of the Island of Alboran, off the coast of the Rif, and the British Government terminated these negotiations—with which people in Ceuta and Tangier were sufficiently acquainted—by declaring the right of Spain to the island which had been an object of diplomatic contention.

More recently, when the African campaign was occupying public attention, no one called in question our right of possession in that small, sterile, and uninhabited island, the importance of which arises from the fact of its lying in the track of vessels sailing for Tangier.

Considerations of the highest importance call for the establishment of a lighthouse, by the proper Department, in the Island of Peregil. As Spain is in possession of the bay and roadstead of Benxu in consequence of the Treaty of Peace and Amity with Morocco, and as the dangers to which ships are exposed when sailing near those shores are very great, it is necessary that they should have the security afforded by a lighthouse, in order to escape disasters which are becoming only too frequent.

But what at present is required as a convenience will be converted into a crying necessity as soon as the defensive works in the Bay of Benxu have been completed, when that station will be visited by our ships of war.

The sensation caused at Tangier by the news that a lighthouse is to be constructed by the Spanish Government on the Island of Peregil has astonished us not a little, the more so, as for a long time past the mercantile marine visiting the port of Tangier has asked for it as a means of security for vessels navigating that route.

The only people who have expressed any dissatisfaction at Spain being in possession of the Island of Peregil are the English, but in spite of their disgust the right is recognized, and the dissatisfaction arises solely from the situation which the island occupies with respect to Tangier, inasmuch as its position would be one of importance if some day any other Power were to exercise any act of sovereignty over the Moorish city of the Strait. But this dissatisfaction on the part of England can only be looked on in the light of a platonic sentiment without any force of positive right, and which can in no way interfere in the present case.

This simple report of our right to the sovereignty over the Island of Peregil will certainly suffice to destroy all the forced suppositions in Tangier and out of Tangier, and to destroy in the bud the hopes of those whose dreams lie in the direction of international conflicts in Morocco.

#### *Telegraphic Service of the "Imparcial."*

#### THE ISLAND OF PEREGIL.

*Tangier, November 16, 1887. 2 P.M.*

The news that Spain had sent a detachment to the Island of Peregil has caused the greatest impression in Tangiers.

As the island belongs to Spain, it is only on the score of curiosity, and as a proof of the impressionability and of the temperament which prevails among the people here, that I reproduce some of the reports which circulate with respect to the matter.

It is reported here that a Commission of Moors of Anghera, which arrived in Tangiers last Sunday, had reported to the Pasha Ab-deradack that a Spanish steamer had disembarked the people on board in the Island of Peregil, called, in Arabic, Thaura.

This little island is situated between Ceuta and Sierra Bullones.

The people who were conveyed in the above-mentioned vessel stuck up in the Island of Peregil a board painted with Spanish colours.

On the top of the board they stuck a placard with the following inscription:—

"This territory has belonged to Spain for the last two years."

As soon as Sidi Mahommed Turroa, the Moorish Minister of Foreign Affairs, heard of the event, he sent on Monday to the Island of Peregil a boat with twenty Moors on board, commanded by the Caliph of Tangiers and Captain Edvin, who were accompanied by the interpreter, Beuchetrot.

This Moorish expedition returned yesterday from the Island of Peregil, where they had left ten Moors charged with the custody of the Moorish flag, which they had raised there with all the usual solemnities.

The subjects of the Sultan of Morocco respected the board which had been stuck up by the crew of the Spanish steamer in the island, in which they did not find a living soul.

The crew which had raised the flag in the Island of Peregil belonged to the merchant-steamer "Katti," registered in Cadix.

Such is the complete abstract of all the stories told here about the affair, and which are no doubt a series of inventions which have been fabricated on one single determined fact, viz., the dispatch of a Spanish detachment to the island.

Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Representative, is profoundly astonished, and does not know how to reconcile all these versions.

Many attribute it to French intrigues, who, in order to extend their frontiers, try to avail themselves of every possible incident which may justify them for so doing.

(Signed) ORTEGA MUNILLA.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)*

(No. 151.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, November 18, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 149 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, at an interview I held to-day with Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, I made some inquiries of his Excellency with regard to the newspaper articles which had lately appeared in Madrid respecting Spanish movements in the Island of Perejil, off the Moorish coast in the vicinity of Ceuta.

Señor Moret stated that the affair had been given a great deal too much importance, and that all Spain proposed to do was in the interests of navigation, to place a lighthouse at one extremity of it.

He explained to me that it would be a great boon to mariners were such a light to be constructed.

Of course, he added, he should consult the Moorish Government before taking any measures on the subject, which admission struck me very much as if the Spanish Government entertained some doubts as to the island in question being Spanish property.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 297.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21, 11:30 P.M.)*

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Madrid, November 21, 1887, 7:15 P.M.*

JUST seen Minister for Foreign Affairs. As regards meeting of Conference at Madrid after Reports from Representatives at Tangier have been sent in, he is of opinion that no time need be lost in convoking it. When his Excellency mentioned to me the month of March, he was only speaking conjecturally [?].

No. 298.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.\**

(No. 22.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, November 22, 1887*

[+ YOUR despatch No. 135.] [† Sir W. K. Green's telegram No. 25.]

After communication with other Powers, Her Majesty's Government have decided that Her Majesty's ships may be withdrawn from Gibraltar Inform Government to which you are accredited.

No. 299.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.‡*

(No. 99. Ext. 22.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 22, 1887.*

I HAVE communicated to the other Powers interested the substance of your despatch No. 135 of the 6th instant, [‡] in which it is stated that, owing to the Sultan of Morocco's restoration to health, there appeared to be no further need for the naval measures of precaution recently adopted in anticipation of disturbances in that country].

\* Also to Mr. Egerton (No. 43), Sir E. Malet (No. 112), Mr. Phipps (No. 105), Sir J. Savile (No. 102), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 26).

† To Sir W. K. Green only.

‡ To Her Majesty's Representatives, except Sir W. K. Green.

Also to Mr. Egerton (No. 667), Sir E. Malet (No. 516), Sir J. Savile (No. 320), Mr. Phipps (No. 306), and Sir Clare Ford (No. 173).

|| Omit to Sir W. K. Green.

I have now to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have decided that Her Majesty's ships may be withdrawn from Gibraltar, and I request that you will communicate this decision to the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 300.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, November 22, 1887, 3:30 P.M.*

FOR II telegrams Nos. 24 and 30.

Her Majesty's Government approve the limit of one month for the preparation of the Report, and agree to the Conference being convoked immediately on its receipt, and assembling as soon after as possible.

No. 301.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 174. Ext. 25.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 22, 1887*

WITH reference to your telegrams Nos. 28 and 30 of the 18th and 21st instant respectively in regard to the meeting of the Conference at Madrid on the affairs of Morocco, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the term of one month being fixed as the limit at which the foreign Representatives at Tangier are to send in their Report, and that they agree to M. Moret's suggestion that, immediately after the receipt of this Report, the Conference should be convoked, and assemble with as little delay as possible after the receipt of the invitation.

The substance of the foregoing was transmitted to you by telegraph to-day.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 302.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 22, 1887*

WITH reference to my letter of the 16th November and to previous correspondence, in regard to the presence of ships of war in Moorish waters, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,\* reporting that there is now no further need for the detention of Her Majesty's ships at Gibraltar.

On receipt of this despatch Lord Salisbury placed himself in communication with the French, German, Austrian, Italian and Spanish Governments, to ascertain whether they were of opinion that foreign ships of war might with safety be withdrawn, and an affirmative reply having now been received from those Governments, I am to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that, under present circumstances, his Lordship considers that the further detention of Her Majesty's ships at Gibraltar may be safely dispensed with.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 303.

M. Grande (Italian Consul at Tripoli) to Signor Crispi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Catalani, November 23.)

(Translation)  
(Confidential)  
M. le Ministre,

Tripoli, November 1, 1887

IN your despatch of the 18th October last (No. 293), your Excellency communicated to me the substance of a Memorandum received by you from the Minister of War on the subject of the action and aims of France on the frontier between Tunis and Tripoli, and you desired me to verify the statements therein contained. The most important piece of intelligence, it seems to me, and that deserving the most particular attention, is the assertion of the Head of the General Staff, that Turkey, at first opposed to the pretensions of France, has now in part yielded to them, and that a portion of the territory of Tripoli will shortly be politically united with Tunis.

In May last I informed your Excellency, in my despatch of the 22nd of that month (No. 211), that, from a conversation I had had with the Pasha, I had gathered (without being able to say, however, whether or no a Convention existed between the two Powers) that France was not acting alone, but in agreement with Turkey, in fixing the Tunisian frontier line, occupying or incorporating new territories recognized as belonging to Tripoli, i.e., subject to the Sultan's sovereignty.

I followed the long correspondence ensuing upon my Report. The news of the Agreement, at first vaguely confirmed, was afterwards definitely contradicted by his Excellency Baron Blanc.

The Agreement is now again referred to by the Head of the General Staff. I do not know whether there is fresh news; in any case, having been desired by your Excellency to ascertain something definite, I took occasion again to converse with his Excellency the Governor on the subject.

I should observe that our conversation was of a purely academical nature, and not calculated to arouse suspicion.

The places named in my Report above quoted, and which France designates as marking the frontier of the territory of Tunis, belong without doubt to Tripoli.

The Pasha again repeated and emphatically asserted that the French propose to fortify Djemila, which certainly belongs to Tripoli, and in proof of the right of the latter over it, he added that the Conventional signs of the tribe or Kabila of the Noail are carved on the walls of an old fort there, and are still to be seen.

He assured me that the territory now occupied by a division of the Wargamma belongs to Tripoli, and he explained to me (which he had not done in May) why the French propose to annex it as forming part of the territory of Tunis.

As regards the southern frontier, it is my conviction that the Pasha does not know where the boundary is, he has no clear or distinct knowledge of this part of Tripoli. He only mentioned the military post at Kalut, where there is a Turkish garrison, and he added that beyond the mountains, where the desert began, the territory was free. He told me he had received from Constantinople the order to drive the division of the Wargamma out of the territory of Tripoli, using force if necessary, because they were turbulent robbers, and ready to further the intrigues of the French and of General Allegro by corrupting the Turkish military and civil authorities. He confirmed the news, which I have already communicated to your Excellency, that the French are fortifying Zerzis and have already brought war material there.

This is what the Pasha told me. He said nothing in the course of our conversation about any steps that Turkey might take in case France occupied these new territories or exercised sovereignty in them in the name of the Bey of Tunis; he only said that France claims all these points as belonging to Tunis, and has already had a map made of them.

As regards the geographical position of Djemila, I may, in addition to the Pasha's statements already referred to, quote those of the French Ambassador at Madrid, M. Cambon, who asserts that the Wady Mokta (or Makta) is the ancient and historical boundary of Tunis. Now, from private information I have received, it appears that Djemila lies to the west of the said Wady, and is, accordingly, included in the territory claimed for Tunis. Furthermore, according to M. Cambon's statement, the Wady Mokta forms the boundary of the four tribes of the Wargamma. Now, two of these, as I reported in my despatch to your Excellency of the 22nd May already referred to, and as the Pasha again stated at my last interview, inhabit a district claimed by the Porte,

and in proof of this the Pasha has just told me that the Wargamma themselves recognize the Sultan's sovereignty, and have paid tithe to the Turkish Government.

As regards the fortifications of Dzirat, I beg to refer your Excellency to my Report of the 28th July last. I have nothing to add to it.

The remaining portions of the Memorandum treat of considerations which might be of value if the French carried out their intention of occupying the territories above referred to. I venture to give my opinion on the subject.

Before the month of May last it was only known that France proposed to fortify certain points of the Tunisian frontier, but there was no question about where the boundary line was to be drawn. After a telegram from Paris had announced the new frontier as a thing already settled, that boundary line, which was the one mentioned to me by the Pasha, became known with exactitude. Then came the denial of the Agreement reported by me; but the following facts were not denied:—

The territories which France wishes to occupy, by pushing out the frontier, are subject to the Sultan's sovereignty.

2 According to the statement of M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, a part of that territory, which is inhabited by the Wargamma, has already been annexed to the Regency of Tunis, and this is sufficiently proved by the fact that a Turkish official, who went there to collect the taxes, was murdered, and when the Governor protested, he was told that the same fate awaited those who violated the territory of others.

3 No steps were taken by the Turks on the frontier of Tripoli, on the contrary, the garrison of Zuara has lately been reduced by men being sent home on leave.

I am certainly of opinion, and I state it as my private conviction, that, so long as Turkey omits to take steps to prevent the annexation of those points which she declares to belong to Tripoli, as Djemila, the district inhabited by the Wargamma, which lies on this side of the Tunisian frontier of the Wady Jessi, and the territory of Djebel to the north of Waza, France, taking advantage of a favourable moment, might easily occupy them, without paying any attention to the protests of Turkey.

Raids are common on the frontier. If hatred and feuds exist between tribe and tribe, in any case, it is not the less true that the action of secret agents fomenters and encourages these hostilities. My reports on this subject three years ago show how easy it would be for France at any moment to trump up an excuse for carrying out her schemes. It is well known that General Allegro had a great deal to do with the Kroumir affair.

The difficulties presented by the southern province of Tunis during the early part of the occupation, and the great number of tribes that emigrated to Tripoli, were good reasons for putting over that province an experienced man capable of ruling and administering a people still hating France, and hostile to her. General Allegro, Governor of the Arrad was able with his undoubted talent, to quiet the province, and he succeeded, with the help to a considerable extent of M. Fernud, now Minister at Tangier, in inducing more than 100,000 Tunisians to return to their districts. This fact, which is of great political value to France, has done much to gain for her the goodwill of the Mussulmans, and to make her known and respected. A man like General Allegro is assuredly capable of preparing the ground with the Arab tribes, and taking advantage of any political opportunity.

I may add, to conclude this long despatch, that the fact that the Turkish authorities have little, not to say no acquaintance with the territory in dispute, does much to further the designs of France, which is endeavouring arbitrarily to extend the territory of the Regency of Tunis, especially in the south west towards Ghadames.

(Signed) GRANDE.

No. 304

Consul Payton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 28. Consular.)

My Lord,

Mogador, November 11, 1887

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 26 and 27 of the 25th and 29th October, I have now the honour to report that the news of the Sultan's health continues to be satisfactory, and this town and district are in a peaceful condition.

The port was visited on the 1st instant by the Austrian gun-boat "Albatros,"

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Commander G. de Pott 115 men, 4 guns, which sailed the next evening for the Canary Islands.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) CHAS. A. PAYTON

No. 305.

Sir A. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury. Received November 23.)

(No. 137. Ext. 26.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 10, 1887.

ON Thursday last the 10th inst., considerable commotion was created here by the arrival of messengers from the district adjoining Ceuta with the news of a descent having been made from two Spanish steamers on the island known by the Moors under the name of Peregil, but marked on the Admiralty Charts as Peregil Island. It was stated that men and building materials had been disembarked, and that a fort was being rapidly erected thereon.

Señor Drosado, who was at once appealed to by the Commissioner for Foreign Affairs for explanations, expressed the belief that the report was founded on some misconception, and suggested that more accurate information should be obtained before giving credence to the news brought by the messengers.

Yesterday, the Moorish officers who had been dispatched to make the necessary inquiries having reported that they had found on Peregil Island a flag-staff standing with a notice-board affixed to it bearing the statement that the locality was Spanish property, and also some pegs marking out the ground for building foundations, Señor Drosado told the Moorish authorities that they ought to send and destroy the flag-staff, notice-board, and all other existing erections. Furthermore, that if any Spaniard appeared to prevent this being done they would be called upon to show their titles for the ground which they had appropriated, and if the titles were not in accordance with the laws of Morocco the Moorish officers would even proceed to arrest the Spaniards and bring them prisoners to Tangier to be dealt with by the Spanish Legation.

This information was given me this morning by my Spanish colleague, on whom I had called for the purpose of obtaining explanations, as yesterday the Spanish Consul had told me that he believed Peregil Island was considered to belong to Spain, and that it was a matter of public notoriety at Ceuta that a lighthouse was to be erected on the island.

The very frank and open manner in which Señor Drosado disclaimed the right of Spain to the island, and his determination to show the Moorish Government that he would not tolerate any belated attempt at encroachment on the part of the Spaniards, is a circumstance which would not be available to bring under his notice the measures adopted by the Spanish Government, as regards proceedings, I know, are much disapproved of. But on the other hand I thought it would be well that Señor Drosado should know that a dispatch had been given to Her Majesty's Government, see Sir Clare Ford's despatch to your Lordship No. 122 of the 18th ult. and that plans were entertained at Madrid of taking possession of Peregil Island. I added that it was asserted that not far back as August last the Spanish Government had because the island was surveyed.

Señor Drosado admitted that at present he could not examine any of the island and that taken place, but that it had been reported through reports being received that the island had been somewhat frequently visited by foreign steamers, a statement which I am, in a way, enabled to confirm through the Moorish Government having at that time written to me to warn the military and naval authorities that the Moorish guards about Agost Hill had been directed, through the frequency of the visits of steamers to that neighbourhood, to be careful that no contravention of prescribed laws should take place.

I was unable, in the absence of your Lordship's authority to do so, to explain to Señor Drosado the quarter whence the warning concerning Spanish projects on Peregil Island came, but he has, since I was with him this morning, sent me for perusal the draft of a despatch which he has prepared to send to Señor Moret, in which he urges the Minister of State to endeavour to discover the possible authors of a plot which, though it could never have lived the moment it saw light, might have unfortunately resulted in some act of violence against a Spaniard in the neighbourhood of Ceuta at the hands of one of the wild Moorish mountaineers, and which act would have at once endangered the amicable relations which now so happily exist between Spain and Morocco.

Señor Drosado repeatedly urged me to communicate to your Lordship, by telegraph, the course adopted by him in the whole matter, and to explain that the slightest attempt of Spain to encroach on Moorish territory would stultify the whole course of the policy followed by Spain for so many years past, and which has been a most loyal regard for the territorial integrity and independence of the Moorish Empire.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 306.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury. (Received November 23.)

(No. 148. Confidential. Ext. 27.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 10, 1887.

I LEARN, from a trustworthy source, that M. Florens, at a recent interview he held in Paris with General Metabrea, the Italian Ambassador, had stated that, in his opinion, it would hardly be possible to limit the deliberations which it was proposed to hold at the Conference on Moorish affairs to a discussion solely on the question of protection afforded to Moorish subjects by foreign Representatives residing in Morocco. I am likewise informed that M. Florens declared to the General that, inasmuch as the project of a Conference had originated from the Spanish Government it would be for Señor Moret to initiate a programme to be submitted to the deliberation of the respective countries which were to be invited to take part in it.

Since writing the above I have seen Señor Aguirre, the Spanish Under-Secretary of State, who told me that Señor Moret, who is absent from Madrid, had instructed him to inform me that when Señor Albareda, late Spanish Ambassador in Paris, was taking leave a few days ago of M. Florens, the latter, and, of his own free will, sketched out to him ("spontanément indiqué") his idea that the scope of the proposed Conference would have to be extended.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD

No. 307.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury. (Received November 23.)

(No. 150. Confidential. Ext. 28.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 18, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I saw Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, to-day, on his return from the baths which his Excellency had been taking at Alhama.

I communicated to him the contents of your Lordship's letter of the 24th of the 14th inst. and Señor Moret, on learning the contents, said he considered them of a very practical nature, and that he was ready to see them carried out.

His great anxiety, however, appears to be lest the proposed Moroccan Conference on Moorish affairs should not take place, and on that account he begged me to inform your Lordship of his willingness to accede to your Lordship's wishes with respect to the preliminary inquiry and Report by the Foreign Representatives at Tangier, if I could only receive an assurance from your Lordship that after they had been made on duty to carry the proposed meeting of the Conference into execution.

I informed Señor Moret that I should not fail to communicate to your Lordship his wishes on the subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD

No. 308.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22, 11:30 P.M.)*

(No. 31.)  
(Telegraphic.)

*Madrid, November 22, 1887, 7 P.M.*

AM I authorized to make an official communication to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 25 of yesterday? Minister for Foreign Affairs is anxious to know what reply your Lordship has given to my telegram No. 24 of the 18th instant.

Up to the present he has not spoken to the Representatives of foreign Powers at Madrid as to the suggestion contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 24 of 14th November.

Although Spanish Minister at London has telegraphed to Minister for Foreign Affairs here what Sir J. Pauncefoot told him yesterday, Minister for Foreign Affairs wishes to know from me, as I am the main channel of communication in this affair, the resolution which has been definitely come to by Her Majesty's Government, in order to permit his speaking to the foreign Representatives here on the subject.

No. 309.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Sanle.*

(No. 333. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, November 23, 1887.*

Sir,

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called to-day at the Foreign Office to communicate the substance of a despatch from the Italian Agent at Tripoli on the subject of French encroachments upon that province.

I inclose a translation of this paper, from which it would appear that the French authorities in Tunis are claiming, with the acquiescence of the Turkish Government, the inclusion within the Tunisian frontier of certain districts properly belonging to Tripoli.

M. Catalani inquired whether Her Majesty's Government had received any information to the same effect, and was informed that no reports had reached this Office on the subject.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 310.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 24.)*

(No. 138. Confidential.)

*Tangier, November 16, 1887.*

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 132, Confidential, of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Péraud obtained, at his first interview with the Sultan, His Shereefian Majesty's consent to order the payment of the 100,000 fr. demanded as compensation for the murder of Major Schmitt.

The French Minister explained at the same time to Molai Hassan that he could not hear of the dismissal from the Moorish service of the remaining officers who form the French Military Commission at the Shereefian Court without first submitting the matter to the consideration of the French Government. In other words, the Sultan has been made to understand that he must continue to bear in his midst the officers whom he considers are placed there in order the better to spy out the land.

Though much cannot be said in defence of the right of the French Government to exact an indemnity for Major Schmitt's family, yet there can be no doubt that the fine is a valuable insurance not only of the lives of the whole of the foreigners who are serving the Sultan, but also of all strangers who may travel in the interior of this country.

Major Schmitt's body was exhumed on the 8th instant, and is already on its way to Tangier for conveyance to France.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 310\*

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford*

(No. 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, November 21, 1887, 7:30 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 31.

Communicate officially to Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs substance of my telegram No. 25, as reply to your telegrams Nos. 28 and 30, and state that on those conditions Her Majesty's Government accept Spanish proposals for Conference.

No. 311.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 160. Ext. 27.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, November 24, 1887.*

I HAVE received your telegram of the 2nd instant, in regard to the meeting of the Conference at Madrid on Moorish affairs.

I have to request you to communicate officially to the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of my telegram of the 22nd instant, as a reply to the inquiries contained in your telegrams of the 18th and 21st instant, and state to his Excellency that on those conditions Her Majesty's Government will accept the proposals for a Conference put forward by the Spanish Government.

The substance of the foregoing was this day communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 312.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)*

(No. 154.)

My Lord,

*Madrid, November 22, 1887.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 131 of the 18th instant, and to previous correspondence on the subject of the Island of Peregil, off the Moorish coast near Ceuta, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of a further telegram which appeared yesterday in the Madrid newspaper "El Imparcial," together with translation of an article which was published in the edition of the same paper to-day under the heading of "An inexplicable Affair."

Some doubt appears to exist as to what really did take place at the island, and next time I have an opportunity of seeing the Minister of State I shall endeavour to obtain some light upon the subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD

Inclosure in No. 312.

*Extract from "El Imparcial" of November 21, 1887.*

(Translation.)

*Tangier, November 20, 1887, 6:30 P.M.*

THE AFFAIR OF THE ISLAND OF PEREGIL.—The declarations of a part of the Madrid press that the Spanish Government is ignorant of the expedition undertaken by the Moors to the Island of Peregil have caused a disagreeable sensation here. This morning there arrived from the island in question the interpreter Benzucion and the Second Califa, chiefs of the expedition, who confirmed the rumours reported in my telegram.

I called on them this morning at the Alcazaba. They told me as follows:—

"We arrived at the Island of Peregil. We saw a Spanish boat, which went round the island, avoiding us. They rowed away, and on a high place on the island we found a triangular bar of iron fixed, bearing the colours of the Spanish flag. On one side it had written 'Obras Publicas' ('Public Works'), and on the other 'Isla Peregil—Faro 6° orden' ('Island Peregil—Lighthouse 6th class')."

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"We went and informed the Bashaw, to whom we reported what we had seen. He replied to us in a letter, ordering us to take down the Spanish flag and hoist that of Morocco in its place."

"We carried out this order, returning immediately, without leaving a garrison."

After hearing this story I did my best to find out what was at the bottom of it, and I have been able to discover, from a credible source, that the Moors did not go to the islet, nor did they there lower the Spanish flag, without first obtaining the consent of the Spanish Minister to this proceeding.

Extract from "El Imparcial" of November 22, 1887

(Translation.)

AN INEXPLICABLE AFFAIR.—We frankly recognize that the Island of Peregil does not belong to the number of those possessions which are capable of exciting a lively interest in the public mind by its intrinsic importance, and we hasten to declare that, apart from the interests which it represents, the questions which its possession might eventually raise do not deserve to cause us any anxiety, because in no case could they assume the character of a conflict between Spain and the Empire of Moghreb.

Although the peculiar situation of the island does invest it with a certain strategic value, the fact of its being completely deserted, without either Spain or Morocco having ever given much or little thought to any design of occupying it with troops in order to protect it under certain circumstances against a *coup de main*, makes it clear that hitherto neither country has had a high opinion of its importance, either from a military or from a naval point of view.

We consequently believe that the differences which have arisen or may eventually arise contain no elements of danger of any kind, and we even venture to assert that the negotiations which will of necessity be opened with regard to the incident which has taken place on the island will terminate in a satisfactory manner, nor can any other termination be expected in view of the friendly relations at present subsisting between Spain and Morocco.

But although the position of affairs is so favourable, the event has given rise to serious charges, and some explanation of the responsibility incurred must be called for. The country has an unquestioned right to know who is to blame with respect to events which undoubtedly mortify our dignity, and which are by no means favourable to the good opinion we should seek to deserve in other countries.

It appears from the news we have received by telegraph from our editor and correspondent at Tangier that a Spanish boat disembarked its crew on the Island of Peregil, where they put up an iron bar of triangular form as a kind of signal to mark the site of a lighthouse of the sixth class, and it appears also that subsequently a Commission of Moors commanded by Moorish officers of a certain rank, pulled down the Spanish flag and hoisted that of the Empire in its place.

In view of these facts, the authenticity of which has not as yet been denied by anybody, it occurs to us to ask in pursuance of what orders has a public act of an official character been performed pointing manifestly to the erection of a lighthouse on the island? When instructions were given to the agents of the Government directing them to act as they did, was it supposed that the island was, as we believe, the legitimate property of Spain, or was it supposed that it formed part of the Sultan's domains, as the Moors declare?

In the first case it is impossible that our right should be ignored or invaded by anybody. But if the persons in the boat acted on the first supposition, the proceeding is inexplicable, because there are no considerations which authorize a foreign Power to set on foot works, however generally recognized their utility may be, on territory which does not belong to them, without obtaining the previous formal and solemn consent of the Power which owns it.

Nor can the assertion even that the lighthouse which it is proposed to erect on the island is a work of public utility and beneficial to all be adduced in justification of the proceeding. Were such an argument accepted, it would be necessary to admit such an absurdity as this, viz., that the British are authorized to place beacons along the Algerian coasts, or that any other nation may do so for the purpose of carrying out improvements in particular services in territories which are not its own.

Whatever the aspect in which this question is viewed, it will always be clear that little tact and much inconsequence have been displayed in the matter we are discussing, and that both the Government and our Representative have played an unfortunate part, thanks to their manifest want of foresight.

Was the Spanish expedition to the Island of Peregil organized on the supposition that it did not belong to us? In that case the first duty of the Spanish Minister in Morocco was at once to report the proceeding to the Government which he represents, in order that the acts of those who took part in the expedition might be disavowed.

Did the expedition take place owing to the persons who arranged it being persuaded that the island was ours, as we asserted some days ago, because it lies within our territorial waters and within the range of the cannons in our position in Africa? In that case, too, a course of action has been followed which is incompatible with our dignity, in allowing our national flag to be lowered without any protest and subsequent claim for redress being formulated.

This incident appears so serious, and so little creditable to a nation in our position, that until we receive fresh and detailed information we shall not venture to believe that our Minister in Morocco ever authorized, without instructions from the Government, the Moors to substitute their flag for that of Spain, he being the guardian of the honour thereof. But if the news we have received should ultimately be fully confirmed, the responsibility incurred by Señor Dionado will be great, because he will seem to have acted rather as the Minister of the Sultan than as that of Spain.

We are confident that the Government whose especial duty it is to investigate the truth of what has occurred, will not fail to adopt all the measures in its power in order to learn the details of this affair, which is rather troublesome and annoying than serious, and that in fulfilment of the lofty mission intrusted to them they will see their way to extricating our honour and our interests unharmed.

No. 313.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received November 25.)

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and to request that you will inform the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Station has been informed by telegraph that there is no longer any necessity for the retention of Her Majesty's ships "Edinburgh" and "Ganet" at Gibraltar.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

EVAN MACGREGOR

No. 314.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.

(No. 102 Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 25, 1887

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 141 and 142, Confidential, of November 3 and 5; ditto, telegram No. 27 of November 16, and No. 326 to Sir J. Savile, dated November 14, 1887 ante, Nos. 253, 254, 279, and 287.]

No. 315.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 189.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 17, 1887.

WITH reference to the concluding paragraph of my despatch No. 71 Confidential, of the 3rd August last, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Sketch Map, prepared by Lieutenant Boulnois, of the routes followed when I proceeded on my mission to the Moorish Court during the past spring and summer. The Map is accompanied by a descriptive Table, and as both the Map and Table are likely to be of value for reference and future use, I trust, should they be reproduced that your Lordship will not refuse to direct that this Legation be supplied with several copies of them.

As I have already had the honour of stating to your Lordship, the Map has been

drawn up by Lieutenant Boulnois from data obtained with untiring energy and much trouble all through the journey, both by himself and Mr White. I pray, therefore, that your Lordship will not refuse to authorize me to convey to those gentlemen your Lordship's thanks for the work accomplished by them.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 316.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 140. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 17, 1887.

THE wish of the Spanish Government that England should accept "generally" the invitation to the Conference at Madrid, as explained in your Lordship's despatch to Sir Clare Ford No. 151A, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo, and in Sir Clare Ford's despatch to your Lordship No. 129, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, appears to me to be founded on the asserted belief that the Sultan is not altogether a free agent in his own country, and that a bridge must be made for his Sherrefian Majesty to be enabled to send Plenipotentiaries to the proposed Conference.

Your Lordship is already aware that, as far as I am capable of forming an opinion of the power of Mulai Hassan to carry out his views irrespective of the wishes of his people, I am utterly unable to agree in the conclusions arrived at by Señors Moret and Diodado.

Yet, if the Spanish Government will hold firmly to the necessity of the Moorish Plenipotentiaries being furnished with instructions and powers prior to entering the Conference, "to meet all eventualities," I do not see that it matters much who of us is right in our appreciations of the limited or unlimited authority of the Sultan.

I will therefore merely touch on the fears expressed by Señor Moret to Sir Clare Ford, which are an echo of those entertained by Señor Diodado.

The disinclination of the Sultan to pledge himself to afford commercial facilities to foreign countries is said to be based on the fear that if the Moors ascertained that the meeting of the Conference had been made conditional on the granting of such facilities, trouble and even revolution might arise. Señors Moret and Diodado then add that, later, after the Maroccan public has learnt that the evil of foreign protection of natives has entirely disappeared, the Sultan will probably be found urged by all around him to increase the commercial intercourse of the country with abroad.

It is on this point that I feel your Lordship should be fully informed. The question of the foreign protection of natives cannot be regarded as a national one. On the contrary, the Moors secretly regard it as a wholesome check on their irresponsible and cruel authorities. It is the Moorish Administration which is anxious for the abolition of the privilege held by foreigners to protect from its rapaciousness the natives who are employed by them. And, owing to the rapid increase in the alien communities, the foreign Representatives have come to see that protection must be limited or stopped altogether if it is not desired to render the present native Government, in a near future, quite helpless as an administrative body.

Therefore, unless the Sultan himself is disposed to adopt a liberal commercial policy, after he has divested himself of the evils of foreign protection of his subjects, no hope of popular pressure to force His Majesty into according commercial facilities need be looked for.

Quite the reverse; the natives, feeling themselves abandoned, without hope of escape, in the clutches of their authorities, would accept with the resignation of despair whatever the Sultan might ordain, and to expect that His Sherrefian Majesty will follow an enlightened course is to expect that the leopard can change his spots.

With regard to the feeling of Moors concerning foreign protection, it is perhaps needless that I should state to your Lordship that there is, perhaps, hardly a Moor in this country who would not gladly accept foreign protection. The better the position of the man, the more he possesses, the greater his enlightenment, the more anxiously will he seek for the security offered by foreign protection. Many of the highest officials surrounding the Sultan at the present time are probably in secret possession of some kind of document which would entitle them to call for the help, in case of need, of some foreign Representative at Tangier. The one great fear that pervades the country is that of over-impending injustice and spoliation. The one hope that also exists is that foreign

Governments will some day bring about a reform which cannot be looked for as a spontaneous boon from the actual rulers.

Mulai Hassan has adopted the system of, whenever he is pressed by foreign Governments to pursue an enlightened course, appearing to submit the matter for the consideration of his subjects. Under the all-pervading fear alluded to by me above it is not surprising that the Sultan's leading questions to the wise men in the land are answered in a manner entitling His Sherrefian Majesty to pose as the enforced interpreter of a national will.

Señor Diodado and the Spanish Government accept this system at the value for which the Sultan wishes it to be taken. The Spanish Representative is, I am sure, convinced of the bona fides of the whole process. But my colleague, through his want of knowledge of the language of the country, and through his dislike to associate with natives, confines his intercourse with Moors to those belonging to Government circles; it is, therefore, not surprising that he is so entirely imbued with the justness of the Sultan's difficulties and pretensions, and urges that no pledges should be secured from His Sherrefian Majesty before the proposed Conference meets.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN

No. 317

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 155. Confidential. Ext. 29.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 22, 1887

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that at the request of Señor Moret, the Minister of State, I had an interview last evening with his Excellency, who informed me that he was desirous of speaking with me relative to a telegram which he had received from the Spanish Minister in London, from which it appeared that the latter had been informed by Her Majesty's Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the preliminary inquiry and Report which it is proposed should be drawn up by the foreign Representatives at Tangier as suggested in your Lordship's telegram to me No. 24 of the 11th instant could be ready in a comparatively short period of time, and that Her Majesty's Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had not understood why Señor Moret, as reported in my telegram No. 28 of the 18th instant, had fixed so long a date after the Report had been received as next March for the meeting of the Conference at Madrid.

At my interview with Señor Moret I informed him that I had reported exactly the words which his Excellency had used to me, and I expressed my willingness to forward to your Lordship a telegram the same evening, which I did, explaining matters, and informing your Lordship that when Señor Moret mentioned the month of March for the meeting of the Conference he had only done so conjecturally.

Before leaving Señor Moret the conversation turned on the proposed meeting of a Conference at Madrid to discuss Moorish affairs, and I again expressed my firm opinion to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government, in consenting to become a party to it, did not contemplate abandoning the point which they had in view, namely, that the discussions which would necessarily take place at it should embrace subjects of importance to Her Majesty's Government other than that of the question of the protection by foreign Representatives of the natives of Morocco.

I repeated to Señor Moret the instructions which I had received from your Lordship on the 28th ultimo, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to join the proposed Conference at Madrid in deference to the wish which had been expressed by the Spanish Government, but that it must be with a "wide reserve." Your Lordship's instructions had gone on to state that Her Majesty's Government would suggest that the Conference should assemble to consider to what extent and on what conditions the Powers might be able to assent to the wishes expressed by the Sultan of Morocco in his communications regarding the protection of Moorish subjects by foreign Governments and the neutralization of his dominions.

I should inform your Lordship that on my mentioning the word "neutralization" his Excellency at once remarked that such a subject as that of neutralization did not enter into his calculations, and that the most that could result from the Conference in question would be an agreement on the part of foreign Powers to respect intact the *status quo* in Morocco, both territorially and politically.

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I then reminded Señor Moret of the despatch which your Lordship had addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier on the 22nd August, in which your Lordship had stated that, as a preliminary step to the modification of the Madrid Convention of 1840, it would be desirable to ascertain how far His Majesty the Sultan would be disposed to meet the Powers who are parties to that Convention in a spirit of conciliation which is manifested by them, and whether, in the event of its provisions being modified in such a manner as to remove all reasonable ground of complaint, His Majesty would pledge himself to grant in return certain commercial facilities which were much needed, and which would not only result in reciprocal benefits, but greatly improve the friendly relations between Morocco and foreign Powers. Her Majesty's Government had been disinclined, I said, to agree to the provisions of the Madrid Convention being abandoned without some preliminary pledge had been received from the Sultan in the above sense.

Later on, however, Her Majesty's Government somewhat modified their views, and had, out of deference to the wishes of Spain, declared their willingness to join the proposed Conference, but on condition that it was to have a "wide reference."

In my opinion, therefore, only one construction could be put upon those words, namely, that Her Majesty's Government could not agree, as had been proposed by France, that the deliberations of the Conference should be limited solely to a consideration of the protection question, and not embrace other questions of importance.

I then inquired of Señor Moret what assurance could be given to Her Majesty's Government that, in entering the Conference Chamber, a wide reference would be accorded to the discussions to take place in it.

Señor Moret answered that he had no difficulty in replying to such a question, and he pointed to the instructions which had been communicated on the 25th ultimo to your Lordship by Señor Mazo, the Spanish Minister, and which were communicated to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 151A of the 25th ultimo, and Señor Moret had put the stress on the proposals Nos. 3 and 4 contained therein, and which were to the following effect:—that in the acceptance by the Powers of the invitation to the Conference and before its meeting, he (Señor Moret) would inform the Sultan that none of his demands would be granted unless His Majesty at the same time granted what was asked of him in order that his Plenipotentiary should be furnished with instructions and powers to meet all eventualities, and, secondly (and this is most important), that the resolutions of the Conference as to the abolition of the protection of natives by foreign Governments should be conditional on the Sultan's conceding what was asked of him. The Spanish Minister in London had informed your Lordship that the chief object of the Spanish Government was to get the Madrid Conference to revise the proposals of the Sultan, and that all the Powers were willing to accept the invitation to the Conference, but that the Spanish Government would not issue it until they were assured of its acceptance by Her Majesty's Government.

In reply to an inquiry which I made to Señor Moret, his Excellency stated that the terms of the official invitation which would be addressed to the Powers whom it was proposed should be represented at the Conference would be based on the note which was sent on the 27th August by the Vizier Mohammed Cherif to Señor Dosado.

This note, as your Lordship is aware, is confined to the expression of the wish of the Moorish Government that the principle of giving order to its own administration, being a subject of another nation, being prejudicial to the liberty and independence of Morocco, should be got rid of and cease, and Señor Dosado was requested by the Vizier to obtain the good offices of his Government in order to provide for the reassembling of a Conference at Madrid, "in order to modify the arrangement and to give to former Treaties their true and primitive significance as far as refers to protection."

"In addressing my invitation to the Conference," said Señor Moret, "I propose to make a counter-proposal, which would be couched in general terms, to the effect that if the Powers complied with the desire of the Sultan of Morocco concerning the protection question, His Majesty would be expected to pay due regard to their wishes on other matters."

Señor Moret led me to believe that in this manner the scope of the Conference would be so enlarged that Her Majesty's Government's wishes, as expressed by the term "wide reference," would be amply and satisfactorily complied with.

His Excellency further stated that, in his opinion, the work of the Conference

might result in an agreement being arrived at by which the *status quo* at present existing in Morocco would be confirmed.

"It would," said his Excellency, "I think, come about in this wise: the Moorish Representative, on being made aware of our counter-proposal—that is to say, the demand for commercial facilities to be granted in return for a modification or transformation of the protection question—would present a counter-proposal on his side to the effect that the Sultan would be prepared to confer those facilities if the Powers would consent to enter into an agreement by which the *status quo* in Morocco, both territorially and politically speaking, would be maintained."

I venture to state that, in my opinion, the work of the Conference might result in useful and beneficial effects if the third and fourth proposals made to your Lordship by Señor Mazo be carried out.

I must admit, however, that I entertain grave misgivings as to the attitude of the French Government in this matter. No doubt Her Majesty's Government could rely, with confidence, on the support of Spain, Germany, Austria, and Italy in the conduct of the negotiations, both as regards the commercial question and that of the maintenance of the *status quo*. I do not speak of Russia, for she, I believe, would side with France; but, I would ask, what reliance could be placed on the good offices of the French Delegate? Would France be prepared to join in any international agreement having for its object the maintenance of the integrity of the Moorish Empire?

As regards any hostile influence on the part of France calculated to thwart the desire entertained by England and Germany to extend their commerce in Morocco, I do not see how such action could be exercised with any show of consistency, in consideration of the fact that in April last year France associated herself with England and Germany in the identical letter which was addressed to the Vizier of Morocco with a view to obtaining the commercial development of Morocco.

On my inquiring of Señor Moret what steps are thought could be taken in the event of the Conference meeting and of the French Delegate refusing to become a party to any agreement which might be proposed with regard to the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco, his Excellency replied that in that case attention would have to be paid to the French Delegate, and that the wishes of the majority of the members at the Conference would have to be respected, and France be left with the notion attaching to her of having been deceived and frustrated, so far as she was concerned, at a net which was devised solely for the benefit of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 318.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 30.)

(No. 159. Confidential)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 23, 1887

WITH reference to my telegram No. 27 of the 16th insto., and to my despatch No. 148 of the same date, reporting to your Lordship what I said I was respecting the views of the French Government with regard to the proposed Conference in Moroccan affairs, and to the fact that M. Flourens had expressed his opinion that its scope could not be limited to the question solely of the protection of natives, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I am at a loss to reconcile the conflicting rumours which reach me as to what may be the real intentions of the French Government on the matter.

Quite recently M. Cambon, the French Ambassador at Madrid, made use to me of the following expression:—that although France would not object to a Conference being held in order to discuss the Morocco protection question, France did not contemplate entering into a Congress whose mission it would be to decide on the fate of Morocco ("desposer du sort du Maroc").

Again, only last evening, when I was in M. Cambon's company, he said to me, when alluding to the Conference, that France held to her point that the discussions at it should be limited strictly to the question of the protection of the natives.

Your Lordship will recollect that in my despatch No. 118 of the 16th insto. I had the honour to report to your Lordship the language which had been held by M. Flourens to General Menabrea, the Italian Ambassador in Paris; and I now



transcribe in French the words in which the Ambassador, I believe, recounted the circumstance to his Government:—

"M. Florens a dit qu'il partageait l'opinion que la Conférence pour les affaires du Maroc ne saurait se réunir sans un programme, et qu'il reconnaissait aussi que ce programme ne pourrait pas se borner simplement à la question des protections, car cette dernière en soulèverait nécessairement des autres."

Thus your Lordship will observe that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs in Paris is exulting with holding one sort of language to the Representatives of foreign Powers (for he spoke in the same sense to the Austrian Ambassador), whilst M. Cambon in Madrid is singing a perfectly different tune, and, to make the mystification still more complete, I am credibly informed that M. Féraud is whispering into the ears of the Sultan of Morocco's counsellors that France is the sole Power friendly to their country, and is endeavouring to excite their suspicions with regard to the intentions of Spain and England, who he represents as being merely actuated by selfish motives in mixing themselves up in the affairs of the Empire.

I venture to make these remarks to your Lordship in order to emphasize the opinion I entertain, that, should the Conference meet and any unpleasantness occur, it will be mainly due to the tactics which will most probably be pursued by the French Delegate at it.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 319.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 157.)  
My Lord,

Madrid, November 23, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 154 of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, told me this afternoon, when speaking on the subject of the Island of Peregil, that, in the opinion of the Spanish Government, it did not belong to Spain, and that consequently, any steps which might be taken by the Spanish Government in the interests of mariners navigating that portion of the Moorish coast by the erection of a lighthouse would certainly not be undertaken except by the consent and permission of the Moorish Government.

I conclude that the assurance which has been given to me by Señor Moret may be considered as concluding the matter.

In the meantime, the subject of the island continues to form a fertile theme for the Spanish newspapers, and as I have already forwarded to your Lordship translations of articles from many of the most important, I have the honour to inclose herewith some more which it may interest your Lordship to peruse.

With regard to the telegram published in the "Liberal" of to-day, Señor Moret informs me that it is utterly devoid of foundation. No Spanish flag was ever planted on the island, merely a sort of cairn was erected to mark the spot, which was considered would be a good site for a lighthouse.

On the evening of the 22nd instant the "Correo," which is a Government paper, published a short article, translation of which is herewith inclosed, in which a denial is given to the exaggerated rumours concerning the Island of Peregil which have been going the rounds of the newspapers.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Extracts of Articles in Spanish Newspapers.

From "El Correo" of November 22, 1887.

(Translations.)

THE ISLAND OF PEREGIL.—Information of perfectly trustworthy origin authorizes us to declare that all that has been written, telegraphed, and published with respect to the Island of Peregil, and especially the Tangier news, are mere comments and rumours,

having their origin in what is called in Africa "bazaar talk." We are therefore in a position to contradict them absolutely, and to base our contradiction on the absolute lack of official information, a fact of the truth of which we have done our best to assure ourselves.

The Spanish Minister in Tangier has not made any communication such as is reported, on the contrary the information received in the different official centres deprives the rumour of all authority and credit, and no kind of assertion can be based upon it.

As for the attitude of the Spanish Government, we repeat what we have already said, its action has been limited to examining a site for a lighthouse which has been needed by navigators for a long time past, and with regard to the construction of which no decision has been come to nor is likely to be come to for the present.

From "El Liberal" of November 23, 1887.

Tangier, November 21, 1887, 2.30 P.M.

The Moorish expedition to the Island of Peregil has returned to Tangier after pulling down the Spanish flag raised there by Spanish officials of Public Works Department.

From "La Epoca" of November 22, 1887.

In the article called "An inexplicable Affair," published by "El Imparcial" to-day, our contemporary no longer declares, as it did in the article which it published previously, that the Island of Peregil unquestionably belongs to Spain. The "Epoca" stated the other day that our rights are very doubtful, both on account of the geographical situation of the island and by the terms of the Treaty of 1860, besides, there is no evidence to show that it has ever been occupied at any time permanently by Spain. The considerations brought forward to day by "El Imparcial" that the island may be ours because it lies within the jurisdictional waters of Spain and is within range of the cannons of our African possessions have no foundation in fact, because neither in the island within the jurisdiction of the fortress of Ceuta nor do the waters in which it lies belong to us by the terms of the Treaty cited above, nor could the balls of our cannons touch it, because it is 6 miles distant from Ceuta, and Punta Leona stands between. On the other hand, it could easily be hit from a shot-gun fired by a person standing on the Moorish shore, which is a clear proof that it lies within the territorial waters of that country.

The point on which we are agreed is this, that the question which has been so mortifying for Spain and the cause of the lowering of our flag by the stranger, after it had been down officially on the Island of Peregil, ought to be cleared up, and an explanation should be demanded of those who by their extreme carelessness or ignorance of our true rights have brought on the conflict.

The "Epoca," which has already asked for explanations on this point, which it has discussed with the caution needed in dealing with matters of an international character, does not propose at present to enter into a more profound consideration of this question, although it has allowed its opinion thereon to be seen with sufficient clearness.

From "El Dia" of November 23, 1887.

THE PEREGIL AFFAIR.—The news of the lowering of the Spanish flag by the Moors, with the consent of the Spanish Representative, Señor Díezdado, not having been officially contradicted, we are compelled to believe it, and can only regret that an affair of such a character should not have attracted the attention it deserves.

Apart from the fact that our rights over the rock date from the period at which we occupied Ceuta, and that hitherto no one has seriously contested them, the question having been always decided in a manner favourable to us, as often as it arose, all Spanish official documents relative to our possessions in North Africa place the Island of Peregil amongst these; and in Ceuta itself it will never occur to anybody to suppose that the islet in question does not belong to us.

In the Map of the Spanish possessions in Africa published in 1850 by Don Francisco Coello, the Island of Peregil is marked blue, a colour which is employed in the

Map in question to distinguish our possessions; and in the explanatory notice accompanying the Map there are the following words:—

"In addition to the five points described (Ceuta, Melilla, Peñon de Velez, Alhucemas, and Chafarinas), the Islands of Peregil, Alborán, and of Limacou or Caracoles belong to Spain."

Must we fear that the case of the Island of Peregil will be that of the Island of Limacou or Caracoles? Because, while Señor Coello put it down as being completely ours in 1850, the French had considered it as theirs since 1841.

Concerning this island, which the Arabs call Rachgun, the "Military Geography of Algeria," by the Commandant Niox (Paris, 1884), gives us the following details:—

"Opposite the mouth of the Tafna, the volcanic Island of Rachgun, which lies at a distance of 2 kilom. from the coast, with a lighthouse, shelters a good roadstead. In 1841 a camp was formed there for providing Tremecen with provisions. A town will soon spring up at Rachgun. It will be the port of Tremecen when a railway has been made for a few kilometres. To the east are the rich iron mines of Benisaf."

How, when, and why did the Island of Rachgun, a Spanish possession according to the survey of the Spanish Ordnance, pass under the rule of France? What culpable negligence, what unpatriotic proceeding was it that deprived us of that strategic position which is the key of the district of Tafna?

If we had not occupied the Chafarinas in 1848 the French would have been by this time long established in the valley of the Muluya. If we had asserted our rights to the Island of Rachgun in time, it is certain that the French arms would never have been carried beyond the limits of the ancient Kingdom of Tremecen.

And if we now allow the Moors, with the support of a Spanish Minister and at the suggestion of the English, to deprive us of the Island of Peregil, it will be equivalent to renouncing for ever the benefits to be derived from the strategic and other advantages which the possession of the Gulf of Benzú would give us.

From "La Epoca" of November 23, 1887.

**MORE ABOUT THE ISLAND OF PEREGIL.**—The "Imparcial" must have read our remarks on its article with the heading "An inexplicable Affair" very hastily.

The dilemma, which it again repeats, that the Island of Peregil may be considered Moorish or Spanish, makes it evident that it no longer considers our right to be unquestionable, inasmuch as it not only allows itself to discuss this right, but even argues the point on the supposition that the island may possibly not be ours.

It is also a proof of the attention with which we read all that the "Imparcial" writes about this affair that, while taking note of the mistakes into which our contemporary slips, we have not thought fit to examine them until to-day.

For example, on the 17th it asserted that, by our Treaty of Peace and Amity with Morocco, we are masters of the Bay and Roadstead of Benzú, whereas, by the terms of that Treaty only the port of the first Bay of Mandag-Rahma—a very small part of the Bay of Benzú, of which it forms the most eastern portion—belongs to us. Besides, mariners never enter the Bay of Benzú, and even if they did go thither, a light on the Island of Peregil would be of no use to them, because the Punta Leona juts out and parts them.

The "Imparcial" also declares that the merchant-vessels frequenting the port of Tangier are calling for the construction of a lighthouse on the Island of Peregil for the better security of navigation to and from that port.

Frankly, we do not understand what merchant-vessels can have asked for such a lighthouse, because, for ships on their way to Tangier from the Mediterranean the lights of Europa Point and the Hacho of Ceuta are sufficient for the purpose of showing the mouth of the Straits, and, further on, those of Punta Carnero and Tarifa make the task of sailing to the Moorish port a very easy one. If the truth should be told, it is not an insignificant harbour light of the 6th class on Peregil which is wanted to render the navigation of those dangerous waters safe; it is rather beacon-lights which are needed on the dreaded shoals of the Perla and the Cabezos, on which so many large steamers have been shipwrecked.

Having made these remarks on the assertions of the "Imparcial," we will now examine the news and contradictory statements of the unofficial press.

The "Correo" asserts, being no doubt authorized to do so, that the matter under consideration is the survey of a site for a lighthouse which it is not at present proposed to construct. Why, then, raise the question at all?

The "Regencia" writes:—

"It is clear, according to telegrams from Tangier, that after the agents of our Government visited the island and left there a sort of signal with the national colours, these words, 'Obras Publicas—Faro de sexto orden' ('Public Works—Lighthouse of the 6th class') being written on a board, the Cadi of Tangier landed a small force there which tore up the signal placed on it by Spain and replaced it by the Moorish flag; moreover according to the telegrams to which we refer, our Representative consented to this proceeding on the part of the authorities of Tangier, and the result is that the Spanish Government has had its authority set at naught and has only just missed being placed in a ridiculous position."

"Our Representative at Tangier cannot be ignorant of the fact that the islet in question belongs to us absolutely, and, however anxious he may be to oblige us far as he possibly can the Government to which he is accredited, he would not have omitted to consult the Minister of State before taking a final step, the cable being in good working order."

"The proceedings of the Bashaw of Tangier are then exclusively his own, and he alone is responsible for what is manifestly a violation of our territory and an outrage on the emblem of Spanish nationality. Reparation is called for, and our Government is bound to obtain it which would not be a very difficult matter, for as soon the negotiations respecting this affair began, it is quite certain that the Moorish Government will correct the excess of zeal of its Delegate in Tangier."

The "Correspondencia," as well as the "Correo," declares that there is no official information respecting what has occurred.

The "Dia" publishes the following telegram:—

"The Spanish flag was taken down on the Island of Peregil by the Moors, the rumours in circulation are to the effect that this proceeding was authorized by the Spanish Minister, M. Diodado."

And the "Iberia" another, which is still more serious:—

"Tangier, 21st, 12:55 P.M. (much delayed in transmission)  
"I have spoken with the Moors who went to the Island of Peregil and pulled down the national flag, and they declare that they did so after having first received the authorization of the Representative of Spain to do so."

In view of the confused mass of opinions and news, even when matters of not very great importance are under discussion, the least that could be required of Ministerialist journals like the "Regencia" is that, before attacking Señor Diodado, they should await official communication of the proceedings which they impute to him, and the least which ought to be demanded of the Government is that they should clear up the point, in order that we may know whether they have made any mistakes or been guilty of carelessness, which would be very much felt in the country.

And we will not say more to-day.

No. 320.

Sir E. Malet to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28)

(No. 450.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 112 of the 22nd instant, instructing me to inform the German Government that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw the ships lately stationed in Moorish waters for the protection of British life and property in Morocco should disturbances arise there, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note which I addressed to Count Bismarck on the 23rd instant, in the terms of the above-mentioned telegram, and of his Excellency's reply, in which he begs me again to express to your Lordship the gratitude of the Imperial Government for the readiness shown by Her Majesty's Government in acceding to their wish that German interests in Morocco should be placed under the protection of the Commander of Her Majesty's naval forces.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD B. MALET.

Berlin, November 25, 1887.

Inclosure 1 in No. 320.

Sir E. Malet to Count Bismarck.

M le Secrétaire d'Etat,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, under instructions from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that, after communication with other Powers, Her Majesty's Government have come to the decision that it is no longer necessary to retain Her Majesty's ships at Gibraltar, and that they will be accordingly withdrawn.

Berlin, November 23, 1887.

I avail, &c.  
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 320.

Count Bismarck to Sir E. Malet.

M l'Ambassadeur,

IN acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's communication relating to the withdrawal of British men-of-war from Gibraltar, I beg to express once more the gratitude of the Imperial Government for the readiness previously shown by Her Majesty's Government eventually to protect the persons and property of the German residents in Morocco.

Berlin, November 24, 1887.

I avail, &c.  
(Signed) H. BISMARCK.

No. 321.

Admiralty to Foreign Office — (Received November 28.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram, dated 26th instant, from the Senior Naval Officer at Gibraltar.

Admiralty, November 26, 1887.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 321.

The Senior Naval Officer at Gibraltar to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)

"EDINBURGH" and "Gannet" sailed Malta.

Gibraltar, November 26, 1887, 12:59 P.M.

No. 322.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury. — (Received November 29.)

(No. 141. Confidential.)

My Lord,

HAVING read a long article in the "Imparcial" of Madrid of the 17th instant, asserting that the Island of Perejil, in the Straits of Gibraltar, belonged to Spain, notwithstanding an alleged attempt made by England in 1848 to have it withdrawn from under the Spanish flag, and that the Spanish Government had decided upon

Tangier, November 20, 1887.

erecting a lighthouse on the island, I this morning called on Señor Diodado, and drew his attention to the article.

My Spanish colleague said that he had already been in telegraphic communication with Señor Moret on the subject, for his Excellency had inquired how far the Minister of Public Works would be justified in authorizing the establishment of a light on the island.

Señor Diodado, who most courteously read me the draft of his reply to the Minister of State, simply said that by a reference to the Maps of 1860 existing at the War and Home Offices at Madrid, marking out the territorial limits of Ceuta, it would be observed at a glance that the Island of Perejil belonged to Morocco, and not to Spain, and that therefore the Spanish Government had no right to undertake the erection of a lighthouse or any other construction on the island.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 323.

Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury. — (Received November 29.)

(No. 142. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 21, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Italian iron-clad "Affondatore" arrived here yesterday from Gibraltar, for the purpose of embarking fifteen Moorish lads, selected by the Sultan, and who are to be conveyed to Italy, where they will be educated for different military, naval, and civil professions at the expense of the Italian Government.

I understand that the Sultan will shortly be provided, at the charge of the Italian Government, with a certain number of Italian officers, who are to conduct a manufactory of small-arms to be established at Fez. I am assured that the Italian Government consented with difficulty to supply the officers in question, and that it only did so at the earnest solicitation of the late Signor Scavasso, who was under the impression that the Sultan was anxious to secure the services of Italian military men.

From what Mulai Haasan said to me of the French and other officers at his Court, I am inclined to think that the Italian Minister was labouring under a delusion, and that His Sheressian Majesty would experience a sense of relief if he was deprived of the assistance of all the military men who have been lent to him by foreign Governments.

Of course these remarks do not apply to Kaïd Maclean, and his brother, Captain Allan Maclean, who the Sultan knows and feels are entirely in his service, and not imposed upon him against his wishes.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 324.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Drummond Hay.

(Very Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office November 29, 1887, 4:15 P.M.

ITALIAN Government have information that French authorities, apparently with the consent of the Porte, are fixing the frontiers of Tunis so as to include portions of territory hitherto recognized as belonging to Tripoli, particularly Djemilar and certain districts inhabited by the Wargamma tribe, and that they are fortifying Zersia and other posts along this frontier.

Have you any information on the subject?

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Seale.*

(No. 333 A.)

Sir,  
THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court called at the Foreign Office to-day, and read to me a telegram which had been addressed to him by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the preceding day in regard to the proposed Conference at Madrid on Moorish affairs.

Signor Crispi stated that the German Ambassador at Rome had communicated to him the information which M. Catalani had sent on the 23rd instant, to the effect that England accepted the Conference with a limitation to the question of the protection of natives. That programme, his Excellency went on to say, appeared to him to be too limited in scope, and he did not understand how I had come to modify my earlier opinion and to rest content with it, adding that the reflections contained in M. Catalani's telegram did not appear to him capable of realization. The programme of the Conference, in short, having been accepted, would it be possible to modify it in the course of the sittings? The Conference would encounter the preliminary difficulty which would inevitably be raised by those interested in excluding from discussion the questions of commercial concessions and of the maintenance of the integrity of the Moorish Empire.

M. Catalani was instructed to submit this doubt to me, and to telegraph my reply.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 326.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Señor del Mazo.*

M. le Ministre,

Foreign Office, November 29, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to express to you the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received your verbal communication of the 22nd instant, explaining, without reserve, the spirit which animates the Spanish Government in their policy as regards Morocco.

That policy, you observed, rejected all idea of conquest or of annexation, but aspired to the exercise of Spanish influence in Morocco, in the interests of civilization, of progress, and, above all, of the autonomy of the Moorish Empire. You proceeded to explain that the security of the Spanish possessions in Africa and in the Canaries was the fixed and permanent aim of your Government, and was only attainable by the maintenance of the integrity of the Moorish Empire. This, in the opinion of your Government, could only be effected by a friendly understanding with the European Powers having, as in the case of Great Britain, interests in Morocco which could neither be ignored nor be set aside.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 327.

*Consul-General Drummond Hay to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 1, 5 P.M.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Tripoli, December 1, 1887, 3 P.M.

THERE are no grounds for suspicion that the consent of the Porte has been obtained for the rectification of the frontier of Tunis by the French. They have made Map of frontier which is said to include portion of Tripoli territory. They are fortifying Zorais and other parts of the frontier. They lately conveyed building material to a spot 6 miles this side of frontier, but they withdrew on representation by the Vull to the French Consul, and threat to resist with arms any attempt to encroach on Tripoli territory.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Catalani.*

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Foreign Office, December 1, 1887.

IN reply to the observations contained in Signor Crispi's telegram to you of the 28th ultimo, upon the subject of the proposed Conference at Madrid on Moorish affairs, which you were good enough to read to me on the following day, I have the honour to state that Her Majesty's Government understand that the Spanish Government are about to communicate to the friendly Powers the grounds on which they propose to confine the invitation to the Conference to protection.

I have to add that Her Majesty's Government consider that the protection question is bound up with the possession of power in Morocco by its present holder, and they would not be disposed to agree to any change in existing Treaty arrangements regarding protection, without some statement being made by the Powers who signed those arrangements, renouncing on their part all encroachment on Moorish territory or jurisdiction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 329.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)*

(No. 146. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, November 26, 1887.

HAVING received most circumstantial accounts from a trustworthy source that twenty-five Spanish soldiers, under the command of a subaltern, had been embarked three days ago at Algeciras as a garrison for the Island of Peregil, I this afternoon mentioned the matter to Señor Diosdado, who was calling on me.

My Spanish colleague asserted that my informant must have been misled, as the Madrid Government had entirely approved of his (Señor Diosdado's) conduct in the question of this island, and had directed him to assure the Moorish Government that there was no intention whatever of encroaching on the territorial rights of Morocco.

With regard to the reports which have appeared in the Spanish press that the Island of Peregil had been acknowledged in 1818 by Malai Abderrahman, the then reigning Sultan, to be a Spanish possession, I learn from Sir John Drummond Hay that there is absolutely no foundation whatever for the assertion. I have also been unable to discover in the archives of this Legation any record of the occurrence in 1818 of the incidents recounted in the Spanish papers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 330.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)*

(No. 169. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 26, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 27 of the 24th instant, and to inform your Lordship that at an interview I held yesterday with Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, I informed him officially that Her Majesty's Government approved of the limit of one month for the preparation at Tangier of the Report of the foreign Representatives there, and agreed to the Conference being convoked at once on its receipt, and that it should assemble as soon as possible afterwards. On these conditions, I stated, Her Majesty's Government accept the Spanish proposals for a Conference.

Señor Moret expressed himself as highly pleased with the communication I had made him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANÇOIS CLARE FORD.

*Sir Clara Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)*

(No. 162.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 30, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 176 of the 23rd instant, transmitting, for my information, copy of a despatch from Sir Kirby Green relating to the Island of Peregil, on the coast of Morocco, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of an article which appeared in the "Dia" yesterday, the writer of which maintains that the island is Spanish, and that if Spain has not hitherto occupied it, it is owing to British interference and obstruction.

I also transmit translation of a telegram published in the "Imparcial" on the 26th instant, which corroborates the statement contained in Sir Kirby Green's despatch to the effect that Señor Diosdado, the Spanish Minister at Tangier, had informed the Moorish authorities that they might send and destroy the Spanish flag-staff which had been erected on the island.

I likewise forward translation of a telegram from Tangier which was published yesterday in the "Imparcial," contradicting the statements which appeared on the 22nd instant in the article in the "Correo" (translation inclosed in my despatch No. 157 of the 23rd instant), which latter was to the effect that all that had been said about the Peregil affair was mere bazaar gossip, and that the only action which had been taken in the matter by the Spanish Government had been to examine the island in order to see whether a lighthouse might advantageously be erected upon it.

This morning's "Imparcial" publishes another telegram, dated Tangier yesterday, recounting the removal on the part of the Moorish authorities of the things which had been left by the Spaniards on the island.

I inquired yesterday, at an interview which I held with Señor Moret, how it happened that his Excellency, in face of all the articles, telegrams, &c., which were being constantly published in the newspapers, did not take some official notice of them and put the public straight in the matter—the more so as he had declared to the several members of the Diplomatic Body here that he did not consider the Island of Peregil was Spanish property.

His Excellency replied that on the 1st December the Cortes would reassemble, when the question of the Island of Peregil would be sure to crop up, and he would then have an opportunity of making a statement respecting it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 331.

Newspaper Extracts.

Extract from "El Dia" of November 26, 1887.

(Translation.)

IN THE STRAIT OF GIBALTAR.—In our preceding article on the Island of Peregil\* we said, with reference to the information derived from private sources, that Señor Diosdado had authorized the Moors to occupy the island in question, and we moreover supposed that they would not have proceeded to commit any such act without the consent of the British Minister. A telegram from Tangier fully confirms the information and our suppositions. The Moors are garrisoning the Islet of Peregil with the permission of the Spanish Minister and the acquiescence of the British Representatives.

What attitude will be taken by the Government in the face of a proceeding which there is reason for considering as an infringement of our territorial rights?

What will be said by Don Francisco Coello, the author of the Map, which is supposed to be official, in which the island figures as ours, without any protest or discussion having been caused thereby? What will be said by the Spanish Commission of Ordnance for Morocco? What remarks will be made by the Departments of Military Geography and Hydrography? What will be the thoughts of the Spaniards at Ceuta?

\* Translation inclosed in Sir Clara Ford's No. 157 of November 23, 1887: ante, No. 319.

Patriotism calls on every person who has an opinion on the subject to deliver it—on all who can explain what has taken place to do so.

One of our contemporaries asserted the other day, after demonstrating our rights over Peregil, that that islet was lacking in importance, and as a proof thereof it alleged that, notwithstanding the fact that the territory is absolutely ours and an immediate dependency of Ceuta we had never taken the trouble to occupy it with a military force. It is with pain that we must declare that this fact, if it stands in any sort of relation with anything, is bound up with the recognized importance of the place, for as often as we have wished to make use of it the project has come to nothing, owing to British protests, which are likewise formulated whenever we give a serious impulse to the fortifications in process of building at Bená, or talk of providing the Point of Tanfa with guns, or even move a cannon to Algeiras.

The most evident proof of the importance of Peregil is that the English, not being able to take it themselves, or daring to dispute our rights to it, are inducing the Moor to infringe them, a proceeding which will at once give rise to a conflict difficult to solve in view of the present state of the Morocco question.

We propose to discuss in another article our situation in the Straits, and the meaning which the possession of Peregil has for us.

Extract from "El Imparcial" of November 26, 1887.

(From our own Correspondent at Tangier.)

Tangier, November 27, 4 P.M.

THE MOORS AT PEREGIL.—The statement that the Spanish flag was lowered on the Islet of Peregil with the authorization of the Spanish Minister, Señor Diosdado, is fully confirmed. Public opinion here is much surprised at an attitude which is different from that apparent in the intentions of the Spanish Government, who have ancient right on their side.

The Minister of the Sultan, Mohammed Torres, after obtaining permission from Señor Diosdado and consulting the British Minister, ordered the island to be garrisoned. It has been occupied by a number of Moors under the command of an officer and a Kaid.

Besides, several Moors of the Kabula of Angheva are keeping guard of the ground in separate parties, and a fortification is in process of construction, which, it is said, has been begun in order to keep off the interference of Spain.

The Moors have received great encouragement from Señor Diosdado's declaration that he does not admit of the existence of Spanish rights over the island.

The public, who are much perplexed, have no means of understanding what has taken place, or what line of conduct is being followed.

Extract from "El Imparcial" of November 29, 1887.

Tangier, November 28, 5:45 P.M.

THE ISLAND OF PEREGIL.—The statements made by the "Correo" on the 23rd instant\* with regard to the events which have taken place at Peregil are entirely devoid of foundation.

The information communicated to "El Imparcial" by its correspondent, Señor Ortega Munilla, is of irrefragable veracity, and I can answer for the truth of the news contained in his telegrams.

(Signed) The Correspondent

Extract from "El Imparcial" of November 30, 1887.

(From our own Correspondent in Tangier.)

Tangier, November 29, 2:15 P.M.

THE ISLAND OF PEREGIL.—A steamer, freighted, it is said, by the Moorish authorities, yesterday conducted an expedition organized by the Moors to the Island

\* Translation inclosed in Sir Clara Ford's No. 157 of November 23, 1887: ante, No. 319.



of Peregril. The persons forming the expedition, after tearing up the iron plates bearing the national colours placed there by the Spaniards, which marked the site of a proposed lighthouse, brought them here as trophies.

The Spanish Minister, Señor Dicastado, to-day went to see the plates in question, which represent the Spanish flag trampled under foot by the Moors.

(Signed) The Correspondent.

No. 332.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)*

(No. 163.)

My Lord,

Madrid, November 30, 1887

THE first article which I believe has been published in any Madrid newspaper as yet on the subject of the proposed Conference on Moorish affairs appeared last evening in the columns of the "Correo," and I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of it for your Lordship's information. It is inspired by an article which appears to have been published in the Italian newspaper "La Riforma."

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 332.

*Extract from "El Correo" of November 29, 1887*

(Translation.)

THE MOROCCO CONFERENCE.—The Italian journal "La Riforma" has published an article on this subject, which has been under discussion for some time, and the fact of that newspaper being the organ of Signor Crispi, the President of the Council, gives great importance to the article in question.

It begins by affirming that if the Conference on the affairs of Morocco assembles, according to the information which has been circulated by the press, and the report made by Señor Moret to the Spanish Cabinet, no one will be able to be legitimately surprised.

The writer adds that the Conference would have met already had not the illness of the Sultan of Morocco interrupted the negotiations.

The Sultan has, fortunately, recovered, and the fears of Europe for the tranquillity of the Empire have ceased; but the reasons which advised a revision of the last Conference still exist, and it is natural that a mode of settling them should be sought.

The question of the protected natives may occasion controversies which, in view of the geographical position of the Empire, had best be avoided, and there are some commercial matters which also demand a solution as necessary to the interests of the Sultan as to those of Europe.

In the judgment of those who have had dealings with him, Mulai Hassan is no common man, and represents a progressive element in his Empire.

On the one hand, he well understands the advisability of withdrawing his Empire from the effects of the colonial fever which is at present infecting Europe, by means of a clear definition of his international relations, and, on the other hand, European Governments have an interest in strengthening the position of the Emperor in relation to the internal affairs of his country; such being the state of affairs, the assembling of the Conference would dissipate the clouds which might threaten the country.

Morocco, says the Italian journal, like the rest of North Africa, has come to acquire such importance that it is impossible to put that Empire entirely out of sight in considering international relations. Italy has only indirect interests there, but she cannot, without serious prejudice to her interests in general, remain indifferent to the evolution of important events which might endanger the balance of power in the Mediterranean.

Hence it comes that the Italian Government, which has always been on the most friendly terms with the Sultan, is following these questions with great interest, and is taking an active part in the negotiations which are being carried on for the purpose of calling the Conference together, it is helping the Sultan to improve the relations of his Empire with Europe, because it is of opinion, and so says Signor Crispi, through

his organ, that the existence of a peaceful, well-established and prosperous State in that part of the Mediterranean is a pledge of peace for Europe, and will destroy the apple of discord, which is now keeping the colonizing Powers on the qui vive.

This is what Italian policy is aiming at, in accord with its friends, adds the "Riforma" in conclusion; and this is the programme which we should like to see triumph in the Conference which is announced to-day almost officially by the Spanish Minister, Señor Moret, a man who directs the national politics in his Department with true capacity, and who deserves, and has been able to win, the esteem and confidence of European Governments.

No. 333.

*Señor del Mazo to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 3.)*

(Translation.)

My Lord,

Spanish Legation, December 1, 1887

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note which your Excellency was good enough to address to me on the 20th ultimo, in which you express the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received the communication which I sent to your Lordship on the 22nd November, with a view to explain the spirit which directs the policy of the Spanish Government with regard to Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. DEL MAZO.

No. 334.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 3.)*

(Secret.)

Sir,

Downing Street, December 1, 1887

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, with reference to your letter of the 29th October, a copy of a despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar respecting the alleged intention of Spain to occupy a small island opposite Tarifa.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT

Inclosure 1 in No. 334.

*Governor Sir A. E. Hardinge to Sir H. Holland.*

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Gibraltar, November 24, 1887

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of the 7th instant, with inclosures, and to transmit, for your information, copy of a Report from the Senior Naval Officer regarding Peregril Island, which is evidently the island alluded to in Sir Clare Ford's letter to the Foreign Office.

The articles on this matter which have recently appeared in the Spanish press are to the effect that the Spanish Government contemplate the erection of a lighthouse on the island in question, but what amount of truth there may be in these articles I am unable at present to ascertain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. E. HARDINGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 334.

*Captain St. John to Governor Sir A. E. Hardinge*

(Secret.)

Sir,

Her Majesty's Naval Yard, Gibraltar, November 19, 1887.

IN answer to your Excellency's letter, and inclosure, of the 16th instant, I have the honour to state that Peregril Island is exactly under Apes Hill; it is only separated

from the mainland by a narrow, shallow channel, 250 yards in width. Very indifferent anchorage for a small vessel can be found between the mainland and its south-east corner in 8 fathoms.

It is  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile long, north to south, 400 yards across its south side, 270 feet in height, and narrow to the north end; the top is flat.

From Tarifa it bears south-east  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and from the nearest point of the Spanish coast south by east  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

It is so similar to the rocky sides of Apes Hill that it can only be seen when very close to it, and not even then unless its position is well known. Its formation is convenient for mounting guns, but its position, unless the mainland adjoining was also in the same hands, useless; half-a-dozen rifles amongst the rocks on Apes Hill would cause it to be untenable.

The island is clearly and accurately shown on Admiralty Chart No. 142.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) H. C. ST. JOHN

No. 335.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 183. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 3, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 155, Confidential, of the 22nd ultimo, reporting the substance of a conversation which you had had on the previous day with the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, upon the subject of the proposed Conference at Madrid on Moorish affairs; and I have to convey to you my approval of your language.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 336.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 104.)

*Foreign Office, December 3, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of No. 172 to Sir Clare Ford, dated November 17; and Sir Clare Ford's telegram No. 28 of November 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 288 and 289.]

No. 337.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 105.)

*Foreign Office, December 3, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 147, 149, and 151 of November 16, 17, and 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 291, 295, and 296.]

No. 339.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 106.)

*Foreign Office, December 3, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of letter to Admiralty dated November 22, 1887: *ante*, No. 302.]

No. 339.

*Sir J. Savile to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)*

(No. 277. Ext. 58.)

My Lord,

*Rome, November 18, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, in reply to your telegram No. 95 of the 10th instant, that the Italian Government consider it no longer necessary to take special precautionary measures in Morocco, and have therefore arranged for the withdrawal of two of the three ships stationed there, while the third is to remain until further orders.

I have reported the above by telegraph this morning.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE.

No. 340.

*Sir J. Savile to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)*

(No. 278.)

My Lord,

*Rome, November 19, 1887.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 95 of the 10th instant, I inclose herewith translation of Signor Crispi's reply to the note which, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions contained in the above telegram, I addressed to his Excellency on the subject of Morocco.

Signor Crispi therein informs me that the Italian Government have received the same information as that communicated to your Lordship by Sir W. Kirby Green in his telegram No. 25, and that they have in consequence arranged for the withdrawal of two out of the three Italian men-of-war now stationed on the Moroccan coast.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE.

Inclosure in No. 340.

*M. Crispi to Sir J. Savile.*

(Translation.)

M. l'Ambassadeur,

*Rome, November 16, 1887.*

THE news which has reached me from His Majesty's Legation at Tangier is the same as that which your Excellency communicated to me in your note of the 11th instant as having been received by the Government of Her Majesty.

As I shared the opinion of the Marquis of Salisbury that the security of our Colonies in Morocco no longer requires any special precautionary measures, it has been arranged, in conjunction with the Minister of Marine, that two of the three men-of-war now stationed there should leave that coast, and that one iron-clad only should remain on until further orders.

Receive, &c.  
(Signed) F. CRISPI.

No. 341.

*Sir J. Savile to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 5.)*

(No. 280.)

My Lord,

*Rome, November 20, 1887.*

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 102 of the 22nd instant, I informed Signor Crispi of the decision of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw the vessels of war which had been stationed at Gibraltar during the recent illness of the Sultan of Morocco.

I have now received his Excellency's reply, in which he conveys his thanks for the above information, and states that the single Italian iron-clad which still remained in Morocco will also shortly be withdrawn.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 107.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 5, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 139 of the 17th ultimo, forwarding the Sketch Map prepared by Lieutenant Boulous of the routes followed by your Mission to the Moorish Court, accompanied by a descriptive Table, and I have to request you to convey to that officer and to Mr White the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for their services in connection therewith.

I have requested Her Majesty's Secretary of War, to whom I have communicated your despatch and its inclosures, to cause the Map to be reproduced at the War Office, and to furnish me with copies, some of which, when received, shall be supplied to you.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 313.

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

*Foreign Office, December 5, 1887.*

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 25th August, and to your reply of the 22nd September last, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier,\* forwarding the Sketch Map prepared by Lieutenant Boulous of the routes followed by Sir W. Kirby Green's Mission to the Moorish Court, accompanied by a descriptive Table.

I am to request that, in laying this letter before Mr Secretary Stanhope, you will move him to cause the Map to be reproduced in the War Office, and to furnish Lord Salisbury with twelve copies for the use of the Foreign Office.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEPOTE.

No. 314.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

*Foreign Office, December 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 140 and 151 of November 17 and 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 295 and 296.]

No. 315.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

*Foreign Office, December 5, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 147, 149, and 151 of November 16, 17, and 18, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 291, 295, and 296.]

No. 316.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.*

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Foreign Office, December 6, 1887, 8 P.M.*

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires states his Government have reason to believe that an agreement has been made between France and Turkey pushing the frontier of

\* No. 318.

† Also to War Office.

‡ Also to Sir W. White (No. 126).

Tripoli 32 kilom. to the eastwards, and bringing the Bay of El-Biban under French protection.

Pray ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs whether there is any truth in this report, but without mentioning source of information.

No. 347.

*Sir W. White to the Marquis of Salisbury. (Received December 7, 4.20 P.M.)*

(No. 94.)

(Telegraphic.)

*Constantinople, December 7, 1887, 12.25 P.M.*

YOUR telegram of yesterday No. 136: Tripoli.

The Italian Government are extremely suspicious of local arrangements, by which France is believed to be extending her frontier eastward of Tunis. A discussion is expected shortly in the Italian Chamber, and if the fact were confirmed it would no doubt produce considerable excitement in that kingdom. The Porte does positively having entered into any agreement of the kind mentioned, adding that the local authorities have no power to negotiate or do anything implying in the remotest degree any right of the French to be at Tunis.

The Italian Ambassador is in communication with the Porte with a view to clearing up this point, and his Excellency tells me that the answer he got as lately as yesterday is a repetition of the language held by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to me, as reported in my despatch No. 317 of 27th June.\*

See also my despatch No. 266 of 20th July.\*

No. 348.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 108.)

*Foreign Office, December 7, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of note to M. Catalani, dated December 1, 1887: *ante*, No. 328.]

No. 349.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 109. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, December 7, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Consul Payton's No. 28 of November 11, Sir Clare Ford's No. 148, Confidential, of November 16, ditto, Nos. 151 and 152 of November 22 and 23; telegram No. 27 to ditto, dated November 21, No. 313 to Sir J. Savile, dated November 20; and note to Señor del Mazo dated November 20, 1887 *ante*, Nos. 304, 306, 310\*, 312, 314, 325, and 326.]

No. 350.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury. (Received December 8.)*

(No. 144. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tangier, November 24, 1887*

M. FÉRAUD, who returned from his visit to the Moorish Court at Alcazar on the 20th instant, tells me that the Sultan, though convalescent, is still very weak, and has evidently received, through his illness, a rude shock to his robust constitution.

Therefore it may not be altogether uninteresting to your Lordship at the present time, to learn what would be the political situation in Morocco under a Sultan Hassan die within the next few years.

In all competent Moorish circles it is asserted that there is no member of the reigning family who would be accepted as Mulai Hassan's successor. His brothers, Othman and Ismail, are obnoxious to the people. The first, who resides at the city of

\* Not printed.

Morocco, is of weak intellect, and the other, who is the present Viceroy of Fez, is considered rapacious and addicted to drink.

Mulai Emhamed, the Sultan's eldest son, a youth about 17 years old, who is about to be appointed Viceroy of Morocco City, has an obliquity of the eyes, and other ungainly ways, which weigh heavily against his prospects of being elected to succeed his father. The idea recently entertained by the Spanish Government that he would be the legitimate heir to the Sherrefian Umbrella was quite erroneous, as all members of the Aliweein family of Sherrefs become lawful and eligible candidates for supreme authority on the demise of the Sultan.

Ilan Mulai Hassan died, and the Spanish troops which were held in readiness invaded Moorish territory, with the alleged purpose of supporting the claims of Mulai Emhamed, utter confusion and disorder would have arisen. Perhaps the Spanish Government may not have been quite unaware of the probable result of its intervention in the home politics of Morocco.

If, however, on the Sultan's death, the Moors are allowed to decide by whom they are to be governed, it is believed that the public voice would call to power a member of the Iddrisseian branch of Sherrefs. Several of these descendants of the Prophet reside at Fez, and it is expected that one of them would be acclaimed Sultan. They are reputed to be very wise and holy men. I fear this means that they are excessively fanatical and narrow-minded, so that they would be utterly unfit to assume the government of the country in the present day.

But if Sultan Hassan regains his health and strength, and the hope of his early death ceases to be entertained by the Moors, I am assured from many sides that a popular outburst may occur, and none more likely than among his own immediate followers. The Sultan is daily becoming more avaricious, and, to make sure that all sources of revenue shall reach him in a direct manner, concentrates the management of affairs in his own hands. Great discontent is thus created among the high officers of State, who have hitherto had liberal shares of the revenues flowing to the Sherrefian Court, and been allowed a certain latitude in the conduct of the administration of the country. From their position they can realize better than the outside public the large sums which are daily being stored in the Sultan's Treasuries. They exaggerate the amounts thus stored, and resent proportionately His Sherrefian Majesty's disinclination to allow them to receive regularly even the small stipends attached to their offices. My informants declare that murmurs of discontent are allowed to reach the Sultan's ears, but that he refuses to heed them, so that he is either confident of being able to check an outbreak or his avarice has become an all-blinding passion.

The discontent of the civil and military branches of the Court at being excluded from a share in the plunder—it is difficult to call it revenue—coming from the provinces is thus great and increasing; but the discontent in the provinces is more legitimate though less immediately dangerous. The populations are ground and squeezed of all they possess by Governors who know they can only avoid the Sultan's tortures and dungeons by so squeezing and grinding. Recently, when Mulai Hassan was expected to die, there was no fear of indiscriminate disorder. Individuals felt they would, happen what might, be as secure after the Sultan's death as before it, for the existing administration never allows them to feel safe from injustice; but it was generally known, as such things are known and not said, that the moment it became certain the country was without a Sultan the peasantry in many localities would seek to be revenged upon their Governors and other rulers for past oppression.

Now that the restoration of the Sultan's health is being fully admitted, the provincial populations are again despairing and giving utterance to hopes that the Christians, no matter whether French, Spaniards, or others, may come and deliver them, and allow them to enjoy without fear of spoliation the fruits of their labour.

I have already pointed out to your Lordship that the Spanish Government probably knew what would happen if it aided the so-called legitimate heir to the Sherrefian Umbrella. I may, therefore, here note that the French Government is doubtless perfectly aware of the manner in which misgovernment is influencing the Moors, and is quite content, by supporting Mulai Hassan in all his whims, to allow the popular will to overturn the *status quo* which is being appealed to so vehemently by those who imagine they have inherent rights over Morocco.

There is, however, no magic in the words *status quo* capable of rendering tyranny supportable for ever, and of depriving commerce and civilization of their power to lead the Moors to seek themselves for a remedy from their present oppression.

\* Mulai Hassan has amassed in his private Treasury at Morocco City 13,000,000*l*.

As your Lordship is aware, it is my conviction that the only way of preventing this country from being acquired by its neighbours is to insist, as far as it is possible, on the Moorish Government adopting the ideas and ways of an administration based on its power to advance the welfare and the interests of its subjects.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 351.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 8)

(No. 166.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 4, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 162 of the 30th ultimo, and (previous correspondence on the subject of the Island of Peregil, off the Moorish coast near Ceuta, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that last evening the Count of Toreno addressed, in the Chamber of Deputies, an interpellation to the Government respecting it.

I inclose herein a translation of what passed on the occasion, and your Lordship will observe that Señor Morat, in his reply, disclaimed all right to the island as being Spanish property.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 351.

Extract from "La Epoca" of December 3, 1887.

(Translation.)

Proceedings in Congress: Session of December 3, 1887.

PEREGIL.

Count de Toreno addressed a question to the Government relative to what he styled the mysterious affair of the Island of Peregil. He asked if the Minister of Public Works had sent for one of his delegates, and had directed him to construct a lighthouse on the island. Whether orders were given for its construction, though no provision had been made in the Estimates voted in the previous Session? Whether directions were given to the Chief Engineer of the Province of Cadix to proceed thither and construct it. He wished to know if the Minister of Marine had ordered the Captain-General of the Department of Cadix to render the Chief Engineer such assistance as was required to carry out the object in view.

He asked whether there was any truth in the statement that a stone post had been set up on the rock, and whether there had been placed on it a small board, on which was written "Public Works, Lighthouse, Class No. 6, Island of Peregil."

He begged the Minister of Public Works to lay a Report before the House in order that they may know if these confidential statements are correct.

It appeared, he said, that the data existing in the Report are not set forth there correctly.

He begged the Minister of State to make a statement on the whole question of Peregil, both as regards recent events and as regards earlier times.

He requested a Map of the island in question, which is to be found in the Department of Military Geography, which proved that it anciently belonged to the Spaniards, since they had busied themselves so many years ago with making a study of the place as a means of defence.

He considered that the information published by the newspapers, relative to this matter as it stood in 1848, is not very correct.

He also inquired if all that the Ministerial journals stated was correct. Whether it was true that our Representative in Morocco, Señor Diosdado, had been present when the objects torn down on Peregil were landed at Tangier, this proceeding having been undertaken by the Moors in pursuance of orders received from their Government.

He affirmed that, according to the "Imparcial," Señor Diosdado had acted con-

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trary to the instructions of his Government, and had recognized the sovereignty of Morocco over the island.

He asked that the Minister of Marine might be made aware of a Return of papers relating to Peregil having been moved for.

The Minister of Public Works (Señor Navarro y Rodrigo), replying to Count Toreno, said that amongst his questions there were some which related to facts which had been incorrectly reported, amongst others that relative to the instruction he was alleged to have given himself to the Chief Engineer of Cadix, with whom, however, he was not acquainted, and that the Government only had the interests of humanity in view in this matter. He would carefully examine the Report, and, if he thought proper, would lay it before the Chamber.

The Minister of State (Señor Moret) said that the idea of establishing a lighthouse on Peregil had nothing to do with the proceedings of the Ministry of War in the months of September and October last, for the works were first set on foot in May 1886, without the question having assumed a political character, he therefore declared his readiness to present such documents as he thought proper.

The Spanish Government, he said, had always considered the Island of Peregil to be Moorish property, this was recognized in a document dated 1866, the last in existence relative to the matter, which would be laid before the Chamber.

He passed in review the projects which were in existence relative to the construction of the proposed lighthouse, as appeared in the Report. Señor Moret also stated that an official of the Office of Public Works, in reply to a complaint of the Governor of Tangier, had declared that there was no idea of a usurpation, and the intentions of the Government set forth in the Speech from the Throne proves this.

He concluded by stating that if the lighthouse was found to be necessary after the question had been duly investigated by the Ministers of Public Works and Marine, it would be constructed, but of course the Spanish Government would obtain permission to do so from the Government of the Sultan.

Count Toreno declared that his words had been dictated by a sincere feeling of patriotism.

He pointed out the contradiction in the statements of the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of State, the former having denied that the Government had taken the initiative in the matter of establishing a lighthouse.

He called for a Return of the Report presented to the War Office, as well as those presented to the Ministry of Marine.

He considered the declarations of the Minister of State of great gravity, viz., that there existed documents proving that Peregil belonged to Morocco, consequently the Representative of Spain in that country had incurred no responsibility, as the Government had approved his action in permitting the signs placed by a Spanish official in the Island of Peregil to be torn down.

It astonished him that the Minister of State should have approved this proceeding, and should not have opposed the decision come to by the Council of Ministers, as reported by the Minister of Public Works.

"I do not understand," he said, "how the Sultan of Morocco will receive the invitation of the Spanish Government and their offer to light his coasts, as though he had a complete system of public works and all formalities had been satisfied with regard to so important an undertaking."

The Minister of Public Works said that he had no doubt of the patriotism of Count Toreno, and that he might possibly be unable to lay before the Chamber the Reports which had been called for.

The Minister of State said that it was impossible to enter into a detailed examination of the matter at present, and that the setting up of an iron statue by the officials of the Office of Public Works could not be considered as a mark of sovereignty, as this did not represent the Spanish flag, which the Government would carry nowhere unless justice manifestly permitted it to do so.

He accepted the responsibility for the conduct of the Minister of Spain at Tangier, whose explanations have fully satisfied him.

Sir Clara Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 8.)

(No. 168.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 168 of yesterday's date relative to the question which was asked of the Government in the Chamber of Deputies, on the 3rd instant, relative to the late occurrences in the Island of Peregil, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a more detailed account which appeared in the official Gazette this morning of the reply which was given by Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, to the interpellation which Count de Toreno had addressed to him on the subject.

Señor Moret's reply is considered as rather a lame one, and it is remarked that people of an official character do not usually repair to foreign countries and put up posts for the purpose of drawing up geographical charts.

Señor Moret's language forms the subject of a bitter article in the columns of the "Epoca," and I enclose herein a translation of it, from which your Lordship will perceive that the Opposition in the Chambers is not likely to allow the matter to drop, and that further embarrassment will be caused to the Government through it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 352.

Report of Proceedings in the Spanish Chamber of Deputies, December 3, 1887  
(Translation.)

Señor Moret's Reply respecting the Island of Peregil.

The Minister of State (Señor Moret).—I rise only to say a few words for the purpose of pointing out to Count Toreno how sure was the ground on which I stood when I regretted that he should have left the "terrain" of mere questions which was the purpose he had in view when he rose—and have entered into a discussion—for that is what he has at last arrived at in his "rectification," when in reality we cannot discuss this point.

I only desire to make two things clear, without modification or variation of, or return to, any previous assertions. The first is that the fact of the Public Works officials, who proceeded to Peregil, having put up a wooden stake with a board on it in order to indicate the place where the lighthouse was to be built, so as to find it on the Map, never has been—nor do I think that any one, except those who have an interest in raising questions of serious import to Spain will affirm that such is the case—never has been, I repeat, a sign of sovereignty; just as nothing of the kind is intended, when in the itineraries of Fez, or in those of Morocco, traced out by our officials, there are placed the stakes or signboards which have been planted to mark the angles and curves with which the ground was traced on the Map. I have an interest in saying this, because if the Government had thought that it was performing an act of sovereignty, the signs of it would never have been taken away from the place where they had been set, by any one. The Spanish flag is one of those which never retire, for the badge of our nationality would not be planted by us unless we had reasons for doing so.

I should never venture on so insidious, and, I might say, so subreptitious an act as that involved in the taking possession of an isolated rock even, if I were not assured of my right to do so.

To conclude, I reserve to myself the task of entering upon a discussion with Count Toreno, if, after a perusal of documents relating to this question, he thinks fit to do so, and I once more declare that the action of His Majesty's Minister in Tangier has received my entire approval, that I consider the reasons he has given me for his action perfectly well founded, and I only wish Count Toreno, when he prepares his interpellation—if he does so—to remember that the question did not have the origin which he supposes it had, and, on the other hand, there is more in the question than he perceived at his first examination of it.

If he, after the questions asked by him, while the documents are still unperused



by him, accedes to my request, as I accede to all his. I am satisfied, for this question is bound up with one of far greater importance, and the one thing which I fear is that an opinion might be formed thereon without a clear knowledge of the facts of the case, for when this has been attained, I venture to think that it would not be ill-advised to declare that the Government has loyally served the interests of the country.

*Inclosure 2 in No. 352.*

*Extract from "La Epoca" of December 4, 1887.*

(Translation.)

*The Session of December 3 in the Congress the Island of Peregil.*

THE interpellations and questions asked by the minority in the Chamber of Deputies have commenced very unluckily for the Government. An eloquent testimony to that effect is given by the Government reply to the Count de Torenó concerning the Island of Peregil, and to Señor Romero Robledo concerning the question of Porto Rico.

Señor Navarro y Rodrigo (Minister of Public Works) was unable to deny the fact that an employé of his Department had been to the island in order to study the ground with a view of placing on it a lighthouse, and Señor Moret, wishing to deny the exactitude of the facts which had been adduced by the Count respecting the right of property over the island, and giving an account of what had taken place in the affair, finished by placing his colleague and all the Cabinet in an exceedingly difficult position.

It resulted from the replies given by the two Ministers that an "Expediente" (Report) had been drawn up in the Department of Public Works, which had been presented to the Council of Ministers with a note from the Bureau having charge of lighthouse affairs, with Ministerial consent, which approved the project for the construction of the lighthouse, that the spot had been selected, that a pole with an iron plate on it had been put up to mark the spot, that the object was purely dictated by motives of public utility inasmuch as it was purely a question of guarding against accidents to shipping, and that if it was definitely arranged that the lighthouse should be erected, the permission of the Emperor Mulai Hassan, to whom Señor Moret declared the island belonged, should be solicited.

The Ministers passed over like hot coals the incidents of the expedition of the Moors to the island, and their having torn down the pole with the plate, and especially did they slur over the circumstance that the latter was painted with the national colours, which was a sign of possession.

The irregularities which this question presents up to now are so enormous that one can scarcely believe them. Señor Navarro y Rodrigo asserts that the "Expediente" (Report) was taken to the Council of Ministers with the note of the Bureau; what had been the opinion of the Department? For it is very probable they may have said just the contrary of what was accorded and actually done.

And if, in order to erect the lighthouse, the permission of the Emperor of Morocco was necessary, why had it not been demanded for making the study of the question and for fixing the plate with the national colours? What the Minister of State (Señor Moret) said with regard to poles for making maps has nothing whatever to do with what took place in the Island of Peregil. Nobody paints the national colours on poles which are not fixed on Spanish territory, for clearly such colours represent the symbol of nationality. The truth is that the Moors tore down the plate because it had on it the colours of our flag, and they carried it off to Tangier as a trophy, as was reported by the correspondents of newspapers at Tangier, and the Moors left a garrison, which had never happened before, as a protest and a challenge against such similar acts on the part of Spain.

With regard to the protest of erecting a lighthouse on the territory of a foreign Power, it appears to us that it can only excite the hilarity of foreign nations.

All these arguments, which the Count de Torenó used with great eloquence, clearly demonstrate the thoughtlessness of the act which has been committed. The violation of the territory of a friendly people is patent; the conduct of our Representative at Tangier justifies it, the declarations made yesterday by the Government proclaim it. We have been the victims of a mistake which can only be accounted for by the perturbation of mind of the present mixed Government, which has covered us with

ridicule in the Empire of Morocco—first of all by the famous expedition of soldiers which hardly got as far as Algeciras, and then by this ill-judged act with regard to the Island of Peregil. The grave and well-weighed censures of the Count de Torenó must sound badly in the ears of the Ministers.

But we have not yet heard the last word on this subject.

It will be spoken when the "Expediente" (Report) is known in full.

*No. 353.*

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 8.)*

(No. 520.)

My Lord,

I ASKED M. Flourens to-day, as instructed in your Lordship's telegram No. 46 of yesterday, whether any agreement had been made between France and the Porte for the advance of the Tunis frontier, and the incorporation of the Bay El Bibau in the French protected territory.

His Excellency answered that he had proposed to Turkey to make a Convention delimitating the Tunis and Tripoli frontier, France proposing the course of the Moutaya as the frontier, but up to the present his Excellency has not been able to obtain the assent of the Porte to the proposal.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

*No. 354.*

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, December 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir W. E. Green's No. 138, Confidential, of November 16, 1887 ante, No. 310.]

*No. 355.*

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

*Foreign Office, December 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir E. Malet's No. 450 of November 25, 1887: ante, No. 320.]

*No. 356.*

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

*Foreign Office, December 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Consul Payton's No. 28 of November 11, 1887: ante, No. 304.]

*No. 357.*

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

*Foreign Office, December 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 154 of November 22, 1887: ante, No. 312.]

*Foreign Office to War Office.\***Foreign Office, December 8, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's No. 137 of November 16; and Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 164 and 167 of November 22 and 23, 1887: *sms*, Nos. 305, 312, and 319.]

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 110. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 9, 1887.*  
I HAVE received your despatch No. 144, Confidential, of the 24th ultimo, in regard to the probable succession to the Throne of Morocco in the event of the death of the reigning Sultan.

I have to state that Her Majesty's Government concur in the views expressed by you in the concluding paragraph of your despatch as to the only means of preventing Morocco from being acquired by its neighbours.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.†*

(No. 702. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, December 9, 1887.*  
I TRANSMIT, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier in regard to the probable succession to the Throne of Morocco in the event of the death of the reigning Sultan.‡

[§ I have informed Sir W. Kirby Green that Her Majesty's Government concur in the views expressed in the concluding paragraph of his despatch as to the only means of preventing Morocco from being acquired by its neighbours; and I have to request your Excellency to hold language in this sense to the Government to which you are accredited if opportunity offers.]

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

*M. Grande (Italian Consul at Tripoli) to Signor Crispi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Catalani, December 12.)*

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

*Tripoli, November 20, 1887.*

I HAD the opportunity, a few days ago, of seeing the Pasha, he having paid me a visit, and I asked him for information concerning the last affair which took place between the Wargammas and the soldiers who were escorting the caravan of provisions. He confirmed all the circumstances which I reported to your Excellency, but his information differed from mine concerning the place where the attack occurred, which he said was Walat, however, I have reason to believe that the spot indicated by me is the right one. The Pasha does not possess any precise knowledge of the geography of Tripoli, and often confounds one place with another. One circumstance which he mentioned confirms me all the more in the conviction I have so many times expressed to your Excellency, that all the movements, incursions, and aggressions of the tribes from the

\* Also to Admiralty.

† Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 339), Sir Clare Ford (No. 186), Mr. Phipps (No. 312), and Sir J. Savile (No. 388).

‡ No. 350.

§ Not to Mr. Egerton.

*M. Catalani to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 10.)*

My Lord, *19, Grosvenor Square, le 4 Décembre, 1887.*  
J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la note que votre Seigneurie a bien voulu m'adresser le 1<sup>er</sup> courant au sujet de la Conférence sur les affaires du Maroc.

En attendant les communications que le Cabinet de Madrid a l'intention de faire aux Puissances amies sur la proposition de l'Espagne de limiter la Conférence à la question des protections, votre Seigneurie me fait observer que le Gouvernement de la Reine considère que la dite question est liée au maintien du pouvoir du souverain actuel du Maroc, et que l'Angleterre ne serait pas disposée à consentir à aucun changement dans le système des protections sans quelque Déclaration des Puissances intéressées renonçant à tout empiètement dans le territoire ou la juridiction de cet Empire.

Par suite de l'échange d'idées qui a eu lieu entre votre Seigneurie et son Excellence M. Crispi depuis que la question du Maroc a de nouveau été soulevée, votre Seigneurie sait que le Gouvernement du Roi partage entièrement les opinions du Gouvernement de la Reine sur les affaires Marocaines.

Les intérêts de l'Italie et de l'Angleterre étant identiques en ce qui concerne le maintien du *statu quo* dans cet Empire, je suis autorisé par son Excellence M. Crispi à déclarer à votre Seigneurie que c'est avec les mêmes dispositions énoncées dans la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser le 1<sup>er</sup> courant que le Gouvernement du Roi a donné son adhésion à la réunion de la Conférence à Madrid.

Veillez, &c.  
(Signé) T. CATALANI

south of Tunis have been incited and supported by French agents, and principally by the well-known General Allegro, known by the name of Youssef Nigro.

The Pasha's words were textually as follows:—

"Chaque fois que Youssef Nigro fait une tournée vers la frontière il arrive toujours une affaire; malheureusement M. Destrait ne comprend rien ou ne veut rien comprendre; mais cette fois j'insisterai plus que jamais."

I am convinced that the Pasha will effect nothing. On several occasions he has expressed the same idea, I might almost say used the same words, but the situation remains the same. If, on this occasion, he really complains with vigour, I am certain that he will not be listened to either here or at Tunis, as has happened on many other occasions.

This circumstance referred to by the Pasha makes me reflect that the situation has by degrees been getting more and more serious, and I fear it will become more so; for since the French have been in Tunis, there has never been an example of the punishment of criminals; so that impunity, besides the secret machinations of French agents, has made the tribes, who are robbers by nature, more intrepid and bolder than ever, and has produced among them a feeling of certainty that they are free to scour the country at their own will.

But besides this, I am informed, by a confidential person, that there seems to be an agreement come to between the two hostile tribes of the Warganmas and the Nuais of Tripoli, who are no less predatory than the former on the basis of mutual assistance at the expense of other men, and non-interference with each other's interests. It is probable that the agreement will not last long, but, however that may be, it is a sign of the abnormal situation of this Government towards France.

The same person pointed out to me that, as the attack took place four days after the caravans started from Tripoli, it was impossible to maintain that the Warganmas having met them and attacked them was a matter of chance, but that, undoubtedly they must have been previously warned. And he secretly confided to me that a Wargamma Chieftain, living in Tripoli, is acting as a spy on the Government, and keeping his own people informed of every movement.

I do not know, and could not assert, that the instigation of France or of General Allegro can be traced in the latter facts; all the more that he was in France, and was expected to return to Gabes about the present time. However, what with the continual aggressions which take place on the frontier, the conviction of the Pasha about the machinations of French agents, and the impunity and freedom enjoyed by the tribes, it is certain that the situation must grow worse as time goes on, perhaps to the detriment of Turkey.

(Signed) GRANDE.

No. 362.

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 12.)*

(No. 15.)

My Lord,

Tunis, December 2, 1887

BY my despatch No. 7 of the 5th September I had the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Decree of the President of the French Republic regulating the conditions on which French naturalization may be acquired by foreigners established in Tunis and by Tunisian subjects.

This Decree has begun to bear fruits by the demand for French naturalization on the part of several British subjects of Maltese nationality and of British protected subjects. The Minister Resident informed me this morning that General Ben Ayad and the members of his family had petitioned to be admitted to the privileges of French citizenship. Besides these, I learn that there are some six or seven Maltese employed in different Departments of the French Local Administration who have made a similar demand, they being given to understand that it would be for their interest to do so. Where personal interest does not operate, the Maltese community here shows a loyal attachment to the British Crown.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received December 13.)

Sir,

War Office, December 12, 1887.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, forwarding the Sketch Map prepared by Lieutenant Boulnois, R A., of the routes followed by Sir Kirby Green's Mission to Morocco, and, in reply, to inform you that as the reproduction by photostereography would be unsatisfactory, it should not be undertaken unless the copies of the Map are urgently required.

To make the Map more intelligible, it should be rearranged and redrawn, and I am to suggest that, to add still further to its completeness, it would be desirable to incorporate with it the Admiralty coast-line and other information which has been recently obtained privately from the Cape Juby Company. This arrangement would meet Sir Kirby Green's requirements, who appears to set value on the Map, not so much for illustrating the work of his Mission as on account of its usefulness for future reference.

I am to add that this proposal need in no way detract from the credit due to Lieutenant Boulnois for his valuable work. A note could be added to the effect that certain specified information had been added from other sources.

The work could be undertaken in about a week or ten days from the present time, and would take about four weeks to complete.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

No. 364.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Savile.

(No. 343. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 12, 1887.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me to-day a proposal from Signor Crispi, that a Commission composed of the British and Italian Consuls at Tripoli should proceed to the neighbourhood of the Tunisian frontier, in order to inquire on the spot into the alleged encroachments of the French in those parts. The Commission, in Signor Crispi's opinion, might, but not necessarily, include a Turkish official, provided that he was independent of the Wali of Tripoli, who might be suspected of conniving at the proceedings of the French authorities in Tunis.

I replied to M. Catalani that the proposed inquiry did not appear to me at all expedient, as it would be certain to be generally looked upon as preliminary to some aggressive action against the Porte.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 365.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 14.)

(No. 172. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 11, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the 8th instant, M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, called upon me, and in course of conversation alluded to the proposed Conference on Moorish affairs to be held in Madrid. I could easily perceive from his manner that he was not enamoured of the scheme, and he did not hesitate to express it as his opinion that no good could come out of it. Indeed, he said that, under certain eventualities, the Conference might result in setting all the Mediterranean Powers by the ears.

No doubt what M. Cambon would like would be (although he threw out no hint to that effect) to see Spain bound to France by the engagement which was entered into on Moorish affairs between those two countries in the year 1884.

M. Cambon repeated to me what he has maintained all along, namely, that in the

event of the Conference meeting the question of the protection of natives *pure et simple* should be alone discussed at it, and that were any other to be broached it should at once be ruled out of Court.

I reminded M. Cambon that what he was saying did not appear to me to coincide with a statement attributed to M. Flourens, who, when speaking to a foreign diplomatist not long ago, is credited with having said that he thought "the deliberations of the proposed Conference could not be limited to a consideration of the Protection question," and that he had also said that as the idea of inviting foreign Powers to a Conference had emanated from Señor Moret, it was for the latter to draw up a programme.

M. Cambon replied that he knew nothing about that, and he added that he was in the habit of receiving very few despatches from Paris on the Conference question, and only occasionally a telegram or two.

France, he considered, had not receded from her original standpoint, namely, that an agreement should be come to between her and Spain before the Conference met, and that it should be understood that the question of the protection of natives should alone form the subject to be discussed at it.

M. Cambon also said that it would be disastrous were the Conference to meet, and the members invited to it were found to be at sixes and sevens as to the nature of the work they had on hand.

In this opinion I fully coincided, and expressed the hope that such a catastrophe might not occur.

M. Cambon then stated that he had heard that Her Majesty's Government had modified their views considerably with respect to what they considered to be the object and scope of the proposed Conference, and that, whereas some time ago they had maintained that the door should be opened to the discussion of various subjects beyond that of protection, now they had shifted their ground, and were willing to agree that the Protection question should alone form the subject of discussion.

I replied that I did not understand the matter in that form, and that, on the contrary, Her Majesty's Government still adhered to their opinion, that the discussions of the Conference should embrace a wider reference than that of the question of protection.

"I suppose," said M. Cambon, "that you allude to commercial matters;" and, on my replying in the affirmative, he rejoined that he did not see how a Conference, such as the one now proposed to be held, could be called upon to deal with such matters, and constitute themselves into a body for framing Commercial Treaties.

That, I replied, would be quite unnecessary. It would suffice, I said, were the principle to be admitted by the Moorish Delegate that commercial facilities would be granted to those nations desiring them, and the details of working out such a question could be adjusted afterwards.

I was silent to M. Cambon on the subject of the Self-denying Agreement or something of an analogous sort being entered into such as is in the mind of the Spanish Government, and in that of Her Majesty's Government as well.

On the following day, the 9th, I saw Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, and I recounted to him what had passed at my interview with the French Ambassador.

I also informed Señor Moret that I was under the impression that M. Cambon was not the only diplomatist who fancied Her Majesty's Government had given way in the manner in which they had originally viewed the scope and objects of the proposed Conference, and I expressed the hope that his Excellency clearly comprehended the situation, which I defined to him as follows:—That Her Majesty's Government consider that the Protection question is bound up with the possession of power in Morocco by its present holder, and that they would not be disposed to agree to any change in existing Treaty arrangements respecting protection without some statement being made by the Powers who signed those arrangements renouncing, on their part, all encroachments on Moorish territory or jurisdiction.

Señor Moret replied that he perfectly well understood the situation, from a British point of view, in the above sense.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)*

(No. 174. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 11, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 172 of to-day, I have the honour to inclose herein translation of the form of invitation which Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, proposes to issue for the Conference on Moorish affairs.

It is based, as your Lordship will observe, on the note which was addressed by the Sultan of Morocco to the Queen-Regent of Spain on the 17th August last.

Señor Moret gave me the inclosed copy confidentially, and, pending an official one being presented to your Lordship in regular form by the Spanish Representative in London, your Lordship may like to peruse the one which I have now the honour to forward to your Lordship.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 368.

*Señor Moret to the Spanish Representatives abroad.*

(Translation)

(Circular.)

Sir,

Madrid, December 1, 1887.

AS I have already had occasion to inform your Excellency in the Royal Order of the 2nd October last, the Sultan of Morocco on the 17th August last begged Her Majesty the Queen-Regent of Spain to reassemble the Conference in the terms which you will see in the inclosed copy.

The Government of His Catholic Majesty, which is anxious to give the Sultan such proofs of their consideration and of their interest in his welfare as he has a right to expect, and which he does not call for in vain, considering the wishes of the Sultan reasonable, will to-day address the Powers signatory of the Conference of 1890 for the purpose of inviting them to a fresh meeting in Madrid, which is, if possible, to take place in the month of January next, the Government of His Catholic Majesty reserving to themselves the power of fixing the day of opening.

In order to ensure success the Madrid Cabinet consider it advisable—and such has been the result of an exchange of ideas with the Powers—that the Representatives in the Conference may be founded, a preliminary Report, in which it shall be made clear how far the right of protection extends, what abuses it has given rise to, what bounds can be set to it, or how it should be superseded.

The period of one month appears to be sufficient for the completion of this task, and His Catholic Majesty's Government propose to request that it may be undertaken at once, in order that they may be able to fix the day on which the Conference is to meet in Madrid.

I have to request you to make a communication in the above sense to the Government to which you are accredited, and to inform me of their reply, which I trust may be in conformity with the proposals of His Catholic Majesty's Government.

God, &c.  
(Signed) S. MORET.

No. 367.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 16.)*

(No. 176.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 13, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 164 of the 2nd instant,\* in which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of the Speech from the Throne which was delivered by the Queen-Regent at the opening of the Cortes, your Lordship will have noticed the paragraph relating to Morocco.

\* Not printed.

A Spanish Red Book on foreign affairs is in course of preparation, and will be laid on the Tables of the two Houses. In the meantime, a short Red Book, treating exclusively of the Morocco question, has been prepared in the Ministry of State, containing twenty pieces, and was distributed yesterday to the Senators, in order that they might be in a position, before discussing the Morocco paragraph in the Queen-Regent's Speech, to know something on the subject.

I have obtained a copy of the document to-day, and inclose it herewith. The pieces contained in it may be summarized as follows:—

The first of these documents is a telegram from the Minister of State to the Representatives of Spain in Paris, Berlin, London, Rome, and Vienna. It is dated the 1st October, and the text is as follows:—

"News of health of Emperor of Morocco is very serious. In view of the events to which his succession will give rise to, Spain will send troops to the fortresses in Africa."

The second is a Circular dated the 2nd October, addressed by M. Moret to the Representatives of Spain abroad, stating that a note has been delivered to His Catholic Majesty's Representative at Tangier by the Sultan, in which he officially expresses a wish that the Spanish Government should again convoke the Madrid Conference and examine the results of the protection system, without the abolition of which the Sultan feels both unable and disinclined to grant fresh concessions to Europeans, nor to undertake reforms in the interior of his Empire. It further states that the Spanish Government is determined to support the legitimate aspirations of the Sultan, and is convinced that a modification of the protection system will greatly facilitate European trade in Morocco, by allowing the Sultan to initiate a plan of reform based upon his own principles and laws. And, finally, the Circular states that negotiations have already been opened, and that the Powers will shortly be invited to take part in the Conference.

The third document is another Circular, addressed on the 5th October to the Representatives of Spain abroad, in order that they may be enabled to explain with absolute accuracy the objects of Her Majesty the Queen-Regent's Government to the Governments to which they are accredited.

"Our object," says Señor Moret with regard to Morocco, "is before all things to avoid a war, which it would be impossible to obviate if the Spanish possessions were the object of an attack."

Señor Moret then enters upon general considerations with regard to the internal state of Morocco, and the disorganization and feeling of distrust which has spread throughout the Empire owing to the protection system and the policy pursued by Europe since the Madrid Conference, the result being that the complications are such, and the necessity of applying a remedy so urgent, that Spain has been compelled to take this clear from the beginning by preparing to take action. The document ends by declaring that Spanish policy in Morocco is opposed to any idea of territorial aggrandizement, and that it proclaims the territorial and political unity of the Empire and the necessity of its coming with the European Powers, or of taking the initiative in inaugurating the reforms demanded by the interests of civilization.

The documents numbered 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are communications from the Ministers at Berlin and London acknowledging the receipt of the Circular of the 5th October, and informing the Minister of State that it has been communicated to the Governments to which they are accredited.

No. 10 is a communication of the Spanish Minister at Lisbon, also acknowledging the receipt of the Circular, and informing the Minister of State that the Portuguese Government will take part in the Conference.

The eleventh document is an acknowledgment by the Spanish Minister in Tangier No. 12, from the Spanish Minister at Brussels, acknowledging the receipt of the Circular, and reports the opinion of the Belgian Government as to the advisability of a new Congress.

No. 13, from the Spanish Minister in Vienna, acknowledges the receipt of the Circular, and states that the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs has declared his conformity with the ideas of the Spanish Government with regard to this question.

No. 14, from the Spanish Representative in Rome, declares that the Italian Cabinet is ready to support the Spanish proposals.

No. 15, from the Spanish Minister at Constantinople, states that the Turkish Government will gladly accept any measures which will conduce to the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco.

No. 16, from the Spanish Minister at Tangier, declares that it is not possible to obtain reforms and immunities from the Moorish Government if the Madrid Convention is not revised.



The seventeenth, from the Spanish Minister at Athens, states that that Government views the initiative taken by Spain with satisfaction.

Nos. 18 and 19, from the Spanish Minister in St. Petersburg, state that the Russian Government has no objection to taking part in a new Conference if it is considered necessary, and if the other Powers are present at it.

No. 20, from our Minister at Washington, acknowledges the receipt of the Circular I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD

No. 368.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir J. Savile*

(No. 345.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 16, 1887.*

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and referred to the account given by Her Majesty's Minister at Paris in his despatch No. 520 of the 7th instant of his interview with M. Flourens respecting the frontier between Tunis and Tripoli. M. Catalani said that the River Montaya mentioned by M. Flourens could not be found in any map, and he asked whether Mr. Egerton could not make further inquiry as to where it was.

I advised that this course should be avoided, as Her Majesty's Government were not directly interested in the matter, and permanent interposition on their part would create suspicion. I recommended that the Italian Ambassador at Constantinople should be instructed to ascertain from the Porte the precise condition of the boundary

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 369.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul Sandwith.*

(No. 4. Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, December 16, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of No. 335, Confidential, to Sir J. Savile, dated November 23, 1887: *ante*, No. 309.]

No. 370.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, December 16, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's Nos. 141 and 145 of November 20 and 26, 1887; Sir J. Savile's Nos. 278 and 280 of November 19 and 26, 1887; and Sir Clare Ford's No. 162 of November 30, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 322, 329, 331, 340, and 341.]

No. 371.

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

(Confidential.)

*Foreign Office, December 16, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Sir W. K. Green's Nos. 141, 142, and 145 of November 20, 21, and 26, 1887; and Sir Clare Ford's No. 162 of November 30, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 322, 323, 329, and 331.]

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No. 372

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 193. Confidential.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 17, 1887.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 172, Confidential, of the 11th instant, reporting the substance of a conversation which you had had with M. Cambon, the French Ambassador at Madrid, in regard to the meeting of the Conference on the affairs of Morocco, and I have to convey to you my approval of the language used by you on the occasion.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 373.

*Foreign Office to War Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 17, 1887.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant relating to the Sketch Map prepared by Lieutenant Boulnois, R.A., of the routes followed by Sir K. Green's Mission to Morocco, and, in reply, I am to request that you will state to Mr. Secretary Stanhope that his Lordship concurs in his suggestion that, in order to make the Map more intelligible, it would be advisable to insert in it the Admiralty coast-line and to incorporate the other information which has been recently obtained privately from the Cape July Company.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER

No. 374

*Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)*

(No. 16.)

My Lord,

*Tunis, December 10, 1887.*

DURING the last few months a growing animosity between the French and Italian Colonies of this city has been apparent. It is well known that it was from the Italian element that the greatest opposition arose to the French occupation. The Colony at that time was estimated at 10,000 souls, but it has increased so rapidly as to amount now to 15,000. The richest and most respectable merchants, bankers, doctors, and lawyers in Tunis are of Italian nationality, a considerable proportion of whom are Jews. The great influx of Italians that has taken place during the last few years is chiefly composed of labouring men, attracted hither by the agricultural enterprise of French colonists, and by the undertakings set on foot by the Department of Public Works. Only the best remunerated posts in that Department are occupied by Frenchmen, French labourers not being tempted by the wages (2½ fr. a-day) earned by the common labouring man.

There is every prospect of a continuous influx of Italians into the Regency, in view of the creation of the new port.

While the Italian Colony has thus so greatly augmented since the occupation in 1881, it is calculated that the French has increased sixfold. At that date it numbered scarcely 500 souls; it is now supposed to number 3,000, or perhaps more. All the newly-created posts in the public departments, administration, judicial, and public works, are recruited from natives of France and French Algerians, and a fair proportion of the merchants, tradesmen, and waiters at cafés are also of French nationality. With the exception of the Maltese, who are supposed to number some 8,000 souls, the other foreigners resident in Tunis are numerically insignificant. Of the three important foreign Colonies, the Maltese have never displayed any hostility towards the French, though it cannot be said that they have much sympathy with them. The great majority are cart-drivers, cabmen, petty tradesmen, and market-gardeners, a few being owners of houses of considerable wealth.

It will thus be seen that the Italians are more numerous than all the rest of the

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foreign population of Tunis put together, and that so large and influential a portion of the European element should entertain hostile sentiments towards their *de facto* rulers is a circumstance of some importance. It is not difficult to point out the causes which have contributed to this result. Before the advent of the French the Italians enjoyed with the Bey's Government equal consideration with the subjects of the other Great Powers. This local influence is now entirely lost, and the administration being in the hands of the French, no sort of favour can be obtained from them. Well-founded complaints are, from time to time, made of the undue severity exercised in placing Italian ports in quarantine on the slightest suspicion of cholera—a severity which is openly attributed to the jealousy entertained by the French of the activity of Italian trade. The alliance recently entered into between Italy and Germany has tended still further to widen the breach existing between the French and Italian Colonies in Tunisia, which reflect the sentiments prevailing in the mother countries. The efforts recently made by the Italians to establish schools and beneficent institutions have given no little umbrage to the French, whose constant aim it has been to attract to their own educational establishments the rising generation of whatever nationality. The steps taken in this direction have not been without success, a considerable proportion of the pupils in the French High School having been drawn from the Italian Colony. The latter have long had elementary schools for both sexes, which are numerously attended, but the pupils destined for higher education had either to repair to Italy or to attend the French school, where the studies were not fitted to prepare them for the diploma required for a career in their native land. To supply the want thus felt a high school has just been opened by the patriotic efforts of resident Italians, aided by a subsidy from the home Government, in which seventy-two pupils are already enrolled, who wear a military uniform like that worn in Government schools in Italy, many of them having been withdrawn from the French school. They have simultaneously opened an infirmary containing 100 beds, where an average of ninety patients are under treatment, three-fourths of whom are Italians. Another large building has just been erected in memory of Garibaldi, and is destined for an orphanage, where 300 boys and girls will be fed and lodged. A paternal Government comes in aid of all these institutions, thereby keeping alive the national aspirations of its Tunisian subjects, which are apparent in the marked separation of the French and Italian elements in general society, in the cafés, and in places of amusement. The local press, consisting of four French and three Italian newspapers, plays its part in giving expression to the jealousy and disputes of both parties. Lately, some unworthy accusations appeared in a French paper against the Italian Vice-Consul, of which the Italian Consul-General complained to the Minister Resident with the view of obtaining some satisfaction for the affront. As the latter declined to interfere, my colleague has been obliged to refer the matter to his Government for a solution.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWICH.

No. 375.

Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)

(No. 177.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 15, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of an article which appeared in the "Imparcial" of this morning.

In it the Spanish Government is severely criticized on account of its alleged inactive policy with regard to Morocco, and the advantages are enumerated which might be acquired by Spain in that country, advantages so great that they would excite the envy of foreign countries, but, adds the writer, we shall soon have no one to envy us, and there will only be those who will inflict injury on us.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 375.

Extract from "El Imparcial" of December 15, 1887.

Inclosure in Morocco.

(Translation.)

THE day is approaching on which the International Conference respecting the affairs of Morocco will assemble at Madrid. His Shereekian Majesty has taken the initiative in the matter of this Conference, and the object which the Sultan has in view is his extrication from the humiliating and dangerous position in which he is placed by the protected individuals whenever he attempts to enforce his authority.

The right of intervention which is admitted to belong to Spain by the Sultan and the European Powers does our country great honour; but we must not be puffed up with vanity, nor must we, in our eagerness to play the most important part in the international politics of Morocco, forget the humbler but more practical aspects of our interests in the Empire of Maghreb. We must be on our guard against that mad craving for greatness to which Southern races are so prone, and we must treat any violent outbursts of ambition as cases of disease. The good Sancho could live happily in his little plot of ground, but his longing for Barataria brought him many hard knocks and a tossing in a blanket.

Many months have passed since the Spanish Representative went to Rabat to greet the Sultan there in the name of the Queen-Regent. Patriotic optimism promised great advantages as the result of that visit. Nevertheless, time has slipped by, and no progress has been made with the many claims which Spain has against the Empire. There are 4,000 Spaniards in Tangier, nor are they wanting in Tetuan, Larache, and Mogador; an active commercial intercourse is carried on between the Spanish and Moorish coasts. We are connected with the Moorish race by ties of blood, and with the Jews, who are masters of Moorish commerce, by those of language.

Neither the French, nor the English, nor the Italians, nor the Germans can hope for such facilities of communication, nor for easy results in their mass on of propaganda. Notwithstanding, the Representatives of these countries are carrying out an active policy, full of hopes and eager for progress, while our Minister at Tangier maintains an attitude of faint-heartedness and inaction, as though he were convinced that our destinies in the Empire were for ever dead.

A short summary of facts will suffice, and their eloquence is unanswerable.

The cable between Morocco and Europe ought to have been secured to a point on the coast of Spain, because this is an advantage to which the priority of our claims and manifest necessity entitled us. Nevertheless, the cable runs from Tangier to Gibraltar.

We have not succeeded in establishing Consulates in the interior of the country.

The Franciscan missions, which are directed by the Venerable Father Lorenmidi, have not been able to form establishments at Mequinez, Fez, and Marruecos (Morocco town).

The Treaty of 1861 has not been properly carried out.

We do not possess Santa Cruz de Marpequena, which belongs to us indisputably.

We have not succeeded in obtaining permission for Spanish travellers to travel about the Empire without the troublesome company of the Majasui, who is very expensive and impedes the journeys of the merchant.

We are not allowed to export wood and cork from the mountains of the interior.

We have not been able to organize the postal service on a proper footing. The mails are conveyed to Tangier at irregular intervals in vessels which are not fitted to cross the Straits in stormy weather, and we allow England to set up her postal lines in all directions, and to place them on a firm basis by means of an excellent organization.

We have not succeeded in getting the trade between Morocco and Spain declared coasting trade.

No custom-house has been established on the neutral ground at Ceuta.

And to conclude by summing up the situation in a single sentence, we should not be aware of the existence of a Spanish Minister in Tangier if the list of the diplomatic body did not say so.

The result of this policy of inaction is annihilation. Our influence in Morocco is being effaced, and nothing remains of the glories of Wad-Ras and the Serrallo except what is evil, viz., the leaven of hatred which ferments in the breast of the vanquished.

Our mission in Morocco should have as its basis the maintenance of the territorial *status quo*, and as our interests are identical with those of the Empire, in defending those

interests we are defending those of peace, we can strengthen our friendship with the Sultan, and obtain the advantages which flow from an increase in our historical and commercial influence.

Señor Diosdado apparently thinks that to obtain concessions and favours from the Sultan is to prepare the way for similar requests on the part of other Powers, and it appears to him preferable that the influence of Spain should vanish away absolutely until it reaches so low a point that it no longer inspires envy or emulation. Accordingly Spain wished for the cable, but neither asked nor obtained the concession; but England asked for and obtained it. The same will happen in the case of the Jewish schools soon about to be established at Morocco, a city which has never been reached by the influence of our heroic Franciscans. In order not to excite envy, we are effacing ourselves and shutting ourselves off from the stream of international life, and such a policy is so advantageous to France and Italy that very soon we shall count for nothing.

All these ideas, which form the unanimous opinion of the Spanish Colony at Tangier, are an indictment of the existing policy, and are the theme of the lamentations which are heard in the office of the banker, the warehouse of the merchant, and the shop of the artisan.

There will soon be nobody who envies us. There will only be people to pity us.

No. 376.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)*

(No. 179.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 16, 1887.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 168 of the 5th instant and to previous correspondence on the subject, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation of an extract from a speech which was delivered by Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, on the 13th instant.

It refers to the Island of Peregil, and Señor Moret recounted minutely all that had taken place there, and gave a solemn assurance that Spain had no intention of usurping that territory which he acknowledged belonged to the Sultan of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

Inclosure in No. 376.

*Extract from Speech of Señor Moret relating to the Island of Peregil, delivered in the Senate on December 13, 1887.*

(Translation.)

MIXED up with this question of Morocco an incident has occurred which I look upon as an exceedingly disagreeable one; it relates to the Island of Peregil. What took place is as follows. The island called Peregil was a deserted and an abandoned one. It was frequently visited by expeditions sent from the coast of Spain, which, for one reason or another, disembarked there. So it happened that within the last few years now an English crew, at other times boats sent from the garrison at Ceuta, and sometimes vessels sent by the Commander-in-chief at Cadiz, but absolutely never have such occurrences given rise to any difficulty.

The idea of erecting a lighthouse in that island was conceived by the Administration of the Spanish Government, but it was an idea which led to great controversy, an idea respecting which there was no unanimity of opinion between the several Departments which took the matter up, and on that account the island was made the object of many examinations. One with the object of drawing up a topographical plan; another to take soundings of the waters, and to examine its coasts in order to ascertain if by any manner it would be possible to define the small bays where ships of small calibre could anchor, and when this had been done and a decision taken, it was contemplated to define the spot where the lighthouse would be erected, especially to select that spot where it would prove of advantage to navigation.

All this gave no rise to complaints or doubts of any sort. The officials of Ceuta went there; boats from Cadiz went there which stopped three days in those creeks, and nobody could suppose that the sojourn for a few hours of a merchant boat which conducted from Cadiz certain employés of the Department of Public Works, who went to

mark the spot where a lighthouse could be erected, could give rise to information being given to warn the Moorish Government respecting alleged intentions on the part of Spain to usurp a part of their territory.

Such are in brief the facts. Was there precipitation and levity in repeating an act which was traditional? No, who had any right to complain except the Moorish Government, and they were far from doing so. Neither the Moorish Government nor their Minister at Tangier told Señor Diosdado that Spain had overstepped a right, or had even failed in form of courtesy by not asking for authorization. But when seeing what had occurred the Spanish Minister at Tangier, who is zealous in the discharge of his duties, and instructed by me in time, made known to the Moorish Government as follows:—

"We have no interest, no intention, no idea of occupying anything that is yours. Go and convince yourselves on the spot that there has been no occupation."

And sure enough the Moors went and came back, and said —

"Truly, there has been none. All we saw was a signpost, a thing by which the spot could be indicated where a lighthouse could be erected."

"Well," said Señor Diosdado, "I, the Representative of Spain, authorize you to take it away."

And so they did, and brought to our Minister the post which had been put there, and in this manner not making it a question of *non-propre*, or taking a narrow view of the question, but going in front of the current which we knew the direction in which it was going. I can now truly assure you what I have already declared, that the incidents might have inflicted upon us a *contretemps*, but that I faced it; and far from abandoning a policy of peace and cordiality which we have proclaimed, we have avoided, thanks to our loyalty, what might have given origin to a conflict.

I only wish to say one more word regarding this incident, which might perhaps have proved a difficulty for Spain, because it was alleged that a Spanish revenue-cutter had fired at the boat which conveyed the Moors on their return from the Island of Peregil, and it is right that the point should be cleared up. According to the communications of the Chief of the Marine, there was no truth in the assertion; and I am anxious that this should be cleared up, as it would have weighed heavily on Spanish policy. No; we have there great interests, and we wish to support them. We shall do all that is possible to act in agreement and in concert with all the partisans of this Spanish policy in Morocco.

No. 377.

*Sir Clare Ford to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)*

(No. 180.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 16, 1887.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translation of an extract from a speech which was delivered by Señor Moret, the Spanish Minister of State, on the 13th instant, in which he adverted to the good understanding which existed between him and the French Government with respect to the affairs of Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD

Inclosure in No. 377.

*Extract from a Speech of Señor Moret in the Senate, December 13, 1887.*

(Translation.)

WITH regard to Spanish policy in Morocco, I have had a verbal exchange of views with M. Florens and with the late French President of the Council. It took place at Paris in the presence of the Spanish Ambassador, and having since continued our communications in the spirit of the same intimate character, but not having had an opportunity of placing these conversations in writing, I have to state that the intimacy of our relations has been complete and that, although I admit that in spite of not having put the conversations in writing, I am able to give the strongest assurance as to the cordiality and common understanding which exists between the two countries. When the documents relating to the Conference are published, the Senate will be able to

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appreciate the truth of this assertion. It is for me a satisfaction to be able to say that France, who has the greatest possible interests in Morocco, has not been able during the whole time the present Government has been in office to address a single complaint or to harbour the slightest suspicion which would tend to impede their united action in the direction of the question.

## No. 378.

*Sir J. Bayle to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 19.)*

(No. 288.)

My Lord,

Rome, December 12, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 333, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo respecting French encroachments upon the frontier of Tripoli, I have the honour to transmit herewith translation of a question addressed to the Government upon the subject in the Chamber of Deputies on the 10th instant, and of Signor Crispi's reply.

His Excellency stated that the existence of an agreement between France and Turkey for the rectification of the boundary between Tunis and Tripoli had been denied by the Porte; that he did not believe that France desired to disturb the balance of the Mediterranean, and that, in any case, the Italian Government would know how to do their duty.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE.

## Inclosure in No. 378

*Extract from Report of Sitting of the Chamber of Deputies of December 10, 1887.*

Signor Franchetti brings forward his interpellation on the expansion of Tunisian territory at the expense of Tripoli.

It is known that some time ago, as appears from sundry French publications, the boundary of Tunis was pushed forward to the east and south-east into Tripolitan territory.

Not so much events which have actually occurred as those which might occur hereafter have induced the speaker to invite the watchful care of the Government to possible rectifications of the boundary at the expense of Tripoli.

The aspirations of France towards that region are well known.

Many circumstances show clearly the tendency of that Power to establish her commercial and political supremacy in the region of the Central and Western Soudan.

The speaker would have no objection to make to the spread of French civilization in barbarous regions but for his remembering the existence of a tract of territory in that neighbourhood which belonged to Turkey.

In the event of the occupation, which there is reason to apprehend, of that point by France, great injury would result therefrom to our commercial interests.

Meanwhile, Turkey, having been skilfully frightened by France with the bugbear of an Italian invasion, is resigning herself to the French occupation.

If we wish to maintain effectually the balance of power in the Mediterranean, there is need of an international Agreement which shall remove the uncertainty respecting the boundaries between the territory occupied by France in Tunisia and Tripoli and other North African States.

The Speaker understands that there is no need for insisting on a categorical reply from the Government, and expresses his full confidence in the energy and prudence of Signor Crispi.

Signor Crispi replied:—

We are pledged by Treaties to maintain the territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire.

As early as the first half of the present year a report reached us that the French Government was erecting fortifications on the frontier of Tripoli. But this is not all.

We were also warned that a rectification of boundaries was being attempted along the Tripoli frontier-line.

An exchange of notes took place between Rome and Constantinople, with a view to ascertaining what truth there was in these reports.

We had read in the journal of the Geographical Society of Paris that there had been a change in the frontier.

We did not fail to make our inquiries, and already in the first half of the present year we applied to the other Powers interested.

Well, the Powers interested in the maintenance of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire have all denied that any change had occurred in the frontier; and as there had been some mention of a Convention between France and the Ottoman Empire for the rectification of the boundary, I applied to the Government at Constantinople for information as to the truth of these rumours.

Well, then, at Constantinople they absolutely deny the existence of such a Convention, and I am expressly authorized to state to the Chamber that none exists (Applause.)

And in the Turkish capital, while the existence of any Convention was denied, it was further stated that, had it existed, there would have been no need to conceal the truth.

I do not believe that France wishes to disturb the balance of power in the Mediterranean; and, if there should be any individuals who entertain such a wish, I have reason to believe that they will not be followed.

However, in any case, the Italian Government will know how to do its duty. (Warm approval.)

Signor Franchetti expressed his satisfaction

## No. 379.

*Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 21.)*

(No. 548.)

My Lord,

Paris, December 20, 1887.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 717, of the 17th instant,\* I have to state that I learn from inquiries which M. de Bunsen, at my instruction, has made at the Geographical Society that the authority for the French frontier being brought east to the bed of the Magia or Moda in the new French map, from which they have been copied apparently into Perthe's map No. 2, was merely a telegram, dated Tunis, the 4th November, 1886, to the "Courrier du Sud," in the following words:—

"La frontière de mer entre la Tripolitaine et la Tunisie vient d'être définitivement fixée grâce aux efforts du Chargé d'Affaires de France à Tripoli, et à ceux du Commandant de la station navale. Le Gouvernement Ottoman accepte pour limite le Râs Tadjer, situé dans le voisinage de l'oasis très peuplée et fertile de Zouara et à vingt kilomètres du Cap Biban, sur lequel un signal géodésique a été construit."

There is a place marked on the Perthe's map as Mctoria, but it is near Gabes. The Mctoria is probably what M. Flourens appeared to me to call the Moutaya, and the frontier which the French proposed to the Porte, but which had not been agreed to by the latter. It is to the east of the Bahja el Biban, and marked in Perthe's map as the frontier, but from what I learn, the French Foreign Office seems to have given no authority to the Geographical Society in this case.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON

## No. 380.

*Memorandum by Sir E. Hertslet respecting Peregil Island*

IT would appear, I think, to be clearly established from the Records of this Office that this island was considered as formerly belonging to Morocco.

In February 1836 Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tangier reported that he had received a communication from the Governor of Gibraltar to the effect that a secret scheme was indulged in on the part of the United States' Government to possess themselves of a military post in those Straits, and that "they were in Treaty for the cession or occupation of the Island of Peregil, appertaining to the Emperor of

\* Not printed.

Consul-General  
D. Hay,  
February 17  
1836.

Morocco." In reporting the fact to the Secretary of State, Mr. Hay said he was strongly inclined to believe that, long before the misunderstanding which had just before that time taken place between the United States and the French Government, it was a closely cherished project of the North Americans to plant themselves upon that coast in some position they might hope to be advantageous both in a military and in a commercial light."

In alluding specially to Peregil, he said:—"There ('Peregil' of the Spaniards), as there is no water to be had on this little island—could hardly be viewed by the United States' Government as worth occupying by them, unless they had also some footing on the neighbouring mainland—or an undoubted prospect of lasting good fellowship with the Moors" (which Mr. Hay described as being very problematical); and he then expressed his opinion that it was really the ruins of *Alcazar*, considerably more to the westward, to which the attention of the United States had been drawn.

The negotiations, however, which were entered into between the Sultan of Morocco and the Agents of the United States were productive of no results.

Verbal communications also passed at this time between the British Ambassador at Paris and the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, respecting the desire of the United States' Government "to obtain from the Moorish Government the cession of a port or naval station on the Coast of Africa, at the extreme entrance of the Mediterranean."

The French Minister, in course of conversation, said he had forgotten the name of the island, but that, considering it was of importance to the interests of England and of France that the American Government should not obtain possession of it, he was desirous of knowing whether Her Majesty's Government proposed taking any steps to counteract the success of their negotiation with the Emperor of Morocco; but nothing was done in the matter.

In a geographical description of the Empire of Morocco, by M. Renon, of the Scientific Commission of Algeria, published in 1840, the following passage occurs:—

"La Isla del Peregil, ou Ile du Persil, dont nous ne connaissons point le véritable nom, peut avoir 25 hectares de superficie. D'après M. de Caraman, elle a été occupée quelque temps par les Anglais pendant la Guerre de l'Indépendance; on dit qu'elle renferme une source d'eau douce;" but we have no record of that fact, if it be true.

It is stated in Sir Kirby Green's despatch No. 141 of the 20th November last that it is alleged that an attempt was made by England, in 1848, to have the Island of Peregil "withdrawn from under the Spanish flag," but although a search has been made through our Registers of Spain, Morocco, France, and other countries, no trace can be found of any such proposal having been made.

At the outbreak of the war between Spain and Morocco, in October 1860, the Spanish Government was officially informed that Her Majesty's Government earnestly desired that there might be no change of possession on the Moorish coast of the Straits; that the importance which they attached to that object could not be overrated; and that it would be impossible for them, or, indeed, for any other Maritime Power, to see with indifference the permanent occupation by Spain of such a position on the coast as would enable her to impede the passage of the Straits to ships frequenting the Mediterranean for commercial or other purposes.

But in the Treaty of Peace between France and Morocco of the 20th April, 1860, it was declared that the King of Morocco ceded to Her Majesty the Queen of Spain in full Dominion and Sovereignty the whole of the territory comprised from the sea, starting as near as possible from the eastern point of the first Bay of Handag-Rahma, on the north coast of the garrison of Ceuta, at the ravine or gully which there terminates, rising to the east side of the ground where the prolongation of the Morell del Renogado, which runs in a similar direction from the coast, is the most abruptly depressed, and terminates in a scarped eminence of shaly stone, descending along the margin from the entrance of the neck that is there situated, by the skirt or declivity of the mountains or slopes of *Sierra-Bullones*, on the principal summits of which are the redoubts of *Isabel-Segunda*, *Francisco de Asis*, *Pinier*, *Cusperos*, and *Principe Alfonso*, in Arabic, "*Vad-Arnat*," and terminates at the sea, after forming altogether a semicircle that ends in the Bay of the Principe Alfonso, in Arabic, "*Vad-Arnat*," which is the south-coast of the aforesaid garrison of Ceuta.

But it will be seen, on reference to the Admiralty Chart sent herewith (No. 142) that this semicircle would not include any part of the coast near to the Island of Peregil; and the statement, therefore, made in the Spanish newspaper "*La Epoca*" of

Mr. Hay,  
No. 9  
April 14,  
1866  
Lord Granville,  
No. 102,  
March 11,  
1866

Lord Granville,  
No. 4  
March 11,  
1866

Rev. Mr. Hay,  
p. 298.

Stat. Paper  
vol. 1,  
p. 229.

Map  
Enclosure in  
Sir Charles  
Lond's

the 22nd November last, would appear to be correct, which says that the island is not within the jurisdiction of the Fortress of Ceuta, that the waters in which it lies do not belong to Spain by the terms of the Treaty of 1860, and that the balls of the Spanish cannon could not reach it, since it is 6 miles distant from Ceuta, and Punta Leona stands between them, whilst it also remarks that the island could easily be hit from a gun-shot fired by a person standing on the Moorish side, being a clear proof that it lies within the territorial waters of that country.

The fact of this island being called by so many names may be the cause of our not being able to trace any further correspondence (if any) which has passed upon the subject. In some instances it is called *Peregil*, *Peregil*, or *Persil*, in others, *Tours*, and in others *Itachgun*, whilst the Admiralty "*Mediterranean Pilot*," in speaking of *Peregil* or *Coral Island*, says:—

"This island, belonging to Spain, is a dependency of the Government of Ceuta. In 1740 a plan was made of it with the view of fortifying it and converting it into a Presidency."

But as no authority can be found here to justify that statement, perhaps it might be as well to ask the Admiralty what authority they possess in their Archives for inserting in the above-mentioned work, published so recently as 1893, a statement to the effect that the Island of *Peregil* belongs to Spain. Our Registers and Indexes are sadly in arrears.

(Signed) E. HERTSLET.

Foreign Office, December 31, 1897.

No. 350.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

Tunis, December 14, 1897.

A DECREE appeared last month in the Tunis official journal abolishing the two Commissions styled "*Commission de Recensement*" and "*Commission de Revision*." These had been created by Decree in 1882, the former for assessing in the several towns of the Regency the value of house property, on which a tax of 6½ per cent. was levied for municipal purposes, the latter for revising the assessment when it was objected to as excessive.

These Commissions consisted each of three members, of whom two were named by the Government, and, where foreigners were interested, the third was appointed by the Consul of his nationality. The presence of a Consular Delegate in the Commission thus afforded a foreign subject a fair guarantee that his property would be assessed at the true value, or that an opportunity would be afforded him to have an exaggerated assessment rectified.

Duplicate lists of the sums assessed were, moreover, in the case of foreigners, communicated to the Consulates on which the foreign subjects depended, besides being posted in places of public resort.

The Commission of Assessment is, by the new Decree, constituted as follows:—

1. The President of the Municipality or the Vice-President
2. The Treasurer of the Municipality or his delegate.
3. A European Municipal Councillor
4. A native Municipal Councillor.
5. The Sheikh of the quarter where the property to be assessed is situated.

Your Lordship will perceive that the members of the Commission are, with the exception of the Sheikh of the quarter, members of the Municipality, and have an interest, therefore, in augmenting the receipts.

The lists of the assessments are no longer to be communicated to the Consulates of the parties interested, but will be posted in places of public resort.

The Commission of Revision is abolished, and the party who considers himself overcharged must submit his reclamation to the "*Juge de Paix*," who will give his decision, from which there is no appeal, on a simple statement, either in writing or orally, of the complainant. This procedure would seem to constitute a breach of Article VII of the Italian Protocol of the 25th January, 1884, which stipulates that no Italian should be amenable to any other jurisdiction but that of the new "*Tribunals*." In some places, as in Goletta, the "*Juge de Paix Suppléant*" is President of the Municipality, who may thus be called on to decide on an assessment which has already met with his approval.

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3 E

No. 157, No.  
November 22,  
1897

Vol. 1, p. 32



The Consuls of the several foreign Powers were convoked at the house of the "Doyen," to consider whether the new Decree, of which I have the honour to inclose copy, afforded sufficient guarantees to foreign subjects for a just assessment of taxes. We were of opinion that the new Commission, from which the Consular Delegate was excluded, did not give the same security for justice as was provided by the former Commissions, and in particular it was feared that the summary and final jurisdiction of the "Juge de Paix," especially in little towns where the functionary charged with judicial duties is sometimes a military man unversed in law, might lead to cases of injustice, as it is precisely in such places that the strongest animosities are found to exist between private individuals and the new French functionaries.

My colleagues and myself agreed that it was our duty, as guardians of the rights of foreigners, to submit the above considerations to our respective Governments, which would decide whether there was room to object to the withdrawal of the guarantees for the just assessment of taxes consequent on the publication of the above Decree. It is probable that the new assessment, which is made every five years, will not be prepared before April or May. I may add that the Maltese are extensive owners of house property throughout the Regency.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWICH.

Inclosure in No. 380\*.

Extract from the "Journal Officiel Tunisien" of November 10, 1887.

Décret du 22 Rfar, 1305 (8 Novembre, 1887).

Louanges à Dieu !

VU les Décrets de Zil-Kada 1255, 20 Rabia-el-Aoual, 1290, et 21 Redgeb, 1299, régissant l'impôt de la carroube sur les loyers des immeubles dans la Régence; ensemble les Décrets des 4 Kads, 1293, 4 Rabia et Tani, 1302, et 19 Djumadi et Tani, 1303, qui interdisent aux Notaires de passer aucun acte de vente ou de bail relatif à un immeuble assujéti à la carroube sans s'être assurés de l'acquittement de cet impôt;

Vu les Décrets des 3 Hédjé, 1301, et 12 Moharrem, 1304, qui concèdent aux communes de Tunis, la Goutotte, Sousse, Sfax, le Kef et Bizerte la carroube sur les loyers perçus sur leur territoire;

Attendu qu'aux termes de l'Article 6 du Décret du 21 Redgeb, 1299, il doit être procédé tous les cinq ans à un recensement complet de la valeur locative de tous les immeubles assujéti à cet impôt; que le dernier recensement a servi de base durant la période quinquennale qui a pris fin le 20 Hédjé, 1304, et qu'il y a lieu de procéder à un nouveau recensement;

Considérant que, depuis la promulgation du Décret du 21 Redgeb, 1299, diverses circonstances ont eu pour conséquence de rendre nécessaire la modification de certaines dispositions de ce Décret;

Nous avons pris le Décret suivant :

#### Article 1<sup>er</sup>.

L'impôt de la carroube est perçu pour le compte du Gouvernement ou pour le compte des communes auxquelles il a été ou sera concédé par Décrets.

#### Article 2.

La Commission de Recensement instituée par les Articles 5 du Décret du 20 Rabia-el-Aoual, 1290, et 6 du Décret du 21 Redgeb, 1299, sera composée ainsi qu'il suit, savoir :

1. Dans les localités érigées en communes :

Du Président de la Municipalité ou du Vice-Président, Délégué, Président;

Du Receveur Municipal ou de son Délégué, Secrétaire;

D'un Conseiller Municipal Européen et d'un Conseiller Indigène désignés par le Conseil Municipal; du Cheik du quartier de la ville soumis aux opérations de recensement, membres.

2. Dans la banlieue de Tunis, à Monastir, et à Kairouan :

Du Gouverneur ou de son Délégué, Président;

D'un Agent délégué par le Directeur des Contributions diverses, Secrétaire;

De deux Notables désignés par notre Premier Ministre; du Cheik du quartier ou du territoire recensé, membres.

La Commission de Recensement pourra se partager en Sous-Commissions qui seront chargées des opérations dans un quartier ou section de quartier. Des membres adjoints aux Sous-Commissions pourront être nommés avec voix consultative par notre Premier Ministre. La Commission pourra s'adjoindre également, si elle le juge convenable, un ou plusieurs experts estimateurs, un ou plusieurs notaires.

Les décisions de la Commission seront prises à la majorité des voix des membres présents.

En cas de partage, la voix du Président sera prépondérante.

#### Article 3.

Les Articles 7 et 8 du Décret du 21 Redgeb, 1299, sont modifiés de la manière suivante :

Article 7. La Commission de Recensement arrêtera les rôles qui seront rendus exécutoires par nous.

Le rôle sera dressé en double expédition.

L'une de ces expéditions servira de titre de recouvrement.

La seconde sera déposée, suivant le cas, au siège de la Municipalité ou entre les mains du Gouverneur.

Les deux expéditions seront communiquées aux intéressés à toute réquisition, sans déplacement, pendant la période quinquennale.

Avis du dépôt du rôle est donné au public par voie d'affiches et, au besoin, par annonces faites dans les marchés et lieux publics. L'exécution de cette prescription et la date de l'avis sont constatés par procès-verbal régulier du Président de la Municipalité ou du Gouverneur.

Article 8. Tout contribuable Européen, ou protégé d'une Puissance Européenne qui se prétendra mal imposé aura le droit de se pourvoir en décharge ou réduction de cote devant le Juge de Paix du lieu de situation de l'immeuble ou devant le Magistrat qui en remplit les fonctions.

Tout contribuable indigène qui se trouvera dans le même cas devra s'adresser à la section des affaires civiles de l'Ouzara.

Les demandes en décharge ou réduction de cote devront être introduites dans un délai de trois mois à compter de l'avis du dépôt du rôle et être accompagnées de la quittance des termes échus.

Faute de l'accomplissement de ces deux conditions, la demande sera déclarée non recevable.

Le Juge de Paix et le Tribunal de l'Ouzara statueront en dernier ressort et sans qu'il puisse y avoir lieu à appel ou à un pourvoi devant un autre Tribunal, sur les demandes en décharge ou en réduction qui leur seront soumises, ainsi que sur toutes les réclamations de quelque nature qu'elles soient relatives au recouvrement de l'impôt de la carroube sur les loyers.

Ils seront également compétents pour statuer dans les mêmes conditions, sur les affaires de même nature qui pourront leur être présentées et qui seront relatives aux taxes non perçues résultant des rôles des années antérieures.

Les rôles seront rectifiés, s'il y a lieu, en conformité de la décision du Tribunal.

Le Juge de Paix et la Section des Affaires Civiles de l'Ouzara seront également compétents pour prononcer en dernier ressort et sans appel ou pourvoi, l'amende prévue à l'Article 6 du Décret du 21 Redgeb, 1299.

#### Article 4.

La Commission de Recensement établie par l'Article 2 du présent Décret sera chargée, au lieu et place de la Sous-Commission instituée par l'Article 12 du Décret du 21 Redgeb, 1299, de l'établissement des rôles supplémentaires dans les conditions prévues par les Articles 12 et 18 du dit Décret.

Les rôles supplémentaires seront établis, arrêtés, rendus exécutoires et déposés, et les réclamations, s'il y a lieu, seront jugées, en conformité des dispositions de l'Article 3 ci-dessus.

## Article 5.

Les communes auront droit, pour le recouvrement de l'impôt de la carroube, à l'exercice du privilège accordé au Gouvernement par les Articles 11 et 16 du Décret du 21 Rodgeb, 1299.

## Article 6.

Les Décrets antérieurs sont abrogés en ce qu'ils ont de contraire aux dispositions du présent Décret.

## Article 7.

Notre Premier Ministre et le Directeur des Finances, sont chargés, chacun en ce qui le concerne, de l'exécution du présent Décret.

Vu pour promulgation et mise à exécution.

Le Chargé d'Affaires de France, Délégué à la Résidence-Générale  
de la République Française,  
(Signé) G. BENOIT.

Tunis, le 8 Novembre, 1887

## No. 381.

Mr. Egerton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 23.)

(No. 552.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my No. 548 of the 20th instant, I learn that the Macta is the frontier of Tunis which M. Flourins proposed to the Turks, at present without success; that the Turks held that the Wad Fessi is the frontier; and that the French have no military posts as yet quite so far east as the Wad Fessi.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON

Paris, December 23, 1887.

## No. 382.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.

(No. 112.)

Foreign Office, December 23, 1887

[Transmits copies of Señor del Mazo's note of December 1; and of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 166 and 168 of December 4 and 5, 1887 ante, Nos. 333, 351, and 352.]

## No. 383.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.\*

Foreign Office, December 23, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 166 and 168 of December 4 and 5, 1887: ante, Nos. 351 and 352.]

## No. 384.

Foreign Office to Home Office.†

Foreign Office, December 23, 1887.

[Transmits copy of Consul Sandwith's No. 15 of December 2, 1887: ante, No. 362.]

\* Also to Admiralty and War Office.

† Also to Colonial Office.

## No. 385.

Note on the Frontier between Tripoli and Tunis close to the Seaboard.—(Communicated by War Office, December 24.)

THE "Moutaya" of the French and the "Mokhla" of the Italian, referred to in Sir T. Sanderson's note, appear to be one and the same, differently spelt.

Dr Barth in his travels and discoveries in North and Central Africa 1840—1855, vol. 1, make use of the word "Makhada" as the name of a very wide shallow wady which runs due north into the southern portion of the Biban Inlet, and in another place in fixing the position of the frontier-line he uses the expression "Mágt'a," signifying a place of separation.

We cannot find the name "Moutaya" on any Map, but Mocta is shown on Habenicht's latest edition 1887.

The Zegsao of Habenicht's first edition, and the Mocta of his second, are one and the same. In his first edition, November 1885, he gives the boundary as starting from the centre of the Biban Inlet, and in the second edition, June 1887, he puts it further east along the course of the Mocta or Zegsao.

Dr. Barth in his first work, published in 1849, gives the boundary as starting from the centre of the Biban Inlet, running due south along what he calls in his more recent work the Makhada, and at p. 271, vol. 1, of his previous work (1849), he distinctly states that on leaving the fort at the mouth of the Biban Inlet he was ferried across to the opposite spit upon which he first trod upon a Tripoli soil.

The "Carte des Limites de la Régence de Tunis, D'après la Guerre," Paris 1882, and other French Maps of that date, include the eastern portion of the Biban Inlet in Tripoli.

All the older Maps show a portion of the Biban Inlet in Tripoli, and the only one of any consequence with which we are acquainted, which shows the frontier further east, is Habenicht's 1887 edition. In vol. 1, p. 11, of his second work of "Travels and Discoveries in 1840—1855," Dr. Barth gives the following interesting account of his journey across the frontier-line. Starting from the north-west corner of the Lake of Biban he traversed the Makhada (which was then dry) and encamped after sunset close to a Bedouin encampment. The next day he skirted the lake as far as El Medama, and then traversed what he calls the Sebkhia, which means a shallow hollow incrustated with salt, and a little after noon passed a group of ruins on the shore called Kitfi-el-Hamir. At 3 in the afternoon (probably about 15 miles from Makhada) he passed a slight slope which, according to the unanimous statement of his guides and companions, formed the Mágt'a or frontier between the two Regencies. An hour afterwards he encamped just short of Miras Bureka.

He further states that 10 miles further on he passed the next day a ruined castle on the shore (Burj-el-Melha), and 4½ miles further he reached Sidi Saud or Sidi Ghazi.

Dr. Barth, in his second work, says that in his first work the frontier was erroneously shown along the Makhada instead of along the Mágt'a, and he explains this by saying that in his first journey he kept close along the sea-shore.

Gill, speaking of the fort of Farwa, which is evidently the Burj-el-Melha of Barth, says "Barth calls the frontier about 10 miles to the west, but the inhabitants declare it to be 10 hours or 30 miles."

Now these two positions are probably the Mágt'a of Barth, about 10 to 13 miles west of Fort Farwa (Burj-el-Melha), and agreeing with the frontier in Habenicht's Map, second edition, and the Makhada of Barth, 28 to 30 miles west of Fort Farwa, and agreeing with the frontier as shown in nearly all other Maps.

There appears to be some close connection between the terms "Mágt'a" and "Makhada," and the idea suggests itself that the two localities have been taken one for the other, but which is the correct one, in the face of the conflicting testimony of Barth on the one hand, and Gill with the bulk of the European cartographers on the other, does not appear clear, but it is to be remarked that Dr. Barth does not publish with his second work any Map showing the frontier-line as amended by him, and it is not improbable that cartographers have blindly followed the line as laid down in the Map published with his first work without having read the correction made in the text of the second.

(Signed)

JULIAN J. LEVERSON,

Captain, R.F., D.A.A.G.

War Office, December 23, 1887

No. 355\*

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Egerton.**Foreign Office, December 24, 1887.*

(No. 739.)

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 172, Confidential: *ante*, No. 555.]

No. 386.

*Sir J. Savile to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)*

(No. 295. Confidential.)

*Rome, December 19, 1887*

My Lord,

I ASKED Photiades Pasha yesterday if he could give me any explanation of the report that a Convention had been concluded between France and the Sublime Porte for a rectification of the frontier between Tunis and Tripoli by which the territory of the former was extended 32 kilom. to the East.

Photiades Pasha said that the Porte had emphatically denied the existence of any such Convention; it never had and never would consent to any arrangement which might be converted into a semblance of consent to the Protectorate of France over Tunisia.

What he heard from Constantinople led him to believe that the sole ground for the report was an erroneous statement in a geographical work published at Paris, "The Bulletin de la Société Géographique de Paris" (1<sup>re</sup> Trimestre, 1887, pp. 4 to 12), which asserted that, in consequence of a Convention lately concluded between France and Turkey, a rectification of the Tunisian frontier had been effected, which extended to a place called Rostadiv, and by which the Tunisian frontier was extended 32 kilom. to the East, thus placing the whole of the great Bay of El Hagan under the Protectorate of France, and that, in consequence, all map-makers will have to take notice of this rectification in drawing up maps of North Africa in future.

This extract, Photiades Pasha added, had been probably sent by the Consulté to Baron Blanc, by whom it had been communicated to the Turkish Foreign Office, the question as to what importance should have been attached to such statement would depend upon whether the work in question is or is not published under the supervision of a Ministerial Department at Paris.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE.

P.S.—Since writing the above I have learnt that, although the Société Géographique is a private Company, and its maps have therefore no official character, the suggestion thrown out by it has been adopted by the Etat Major, who, in their latest maps, have laid down the frontier between Tunis and Tripoli in accordance with the assertion of the Société Géographique.

J. S.

No. 387.

*Sir J. Savile to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 26.)*

(No. 300.)

*Rome, December 22, 1887.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 295 of the 19th instant, I asked Signor Crispi whether, in spite of the positive denial by the Turkish Government that any Convention had been come to between the Porte and the French Government for the rectification of the frontier between Tunis and Tripoli, it was possible that an arrangement of the kind had been come to between the Governor of Tripoli and some French agents.

His Excellency said the report was without foundation, a positive assurance to this effect having been given by the Governor of Tripoli himself to the Italian Consul there.

Count de Moüy, the French Ambassador, having mentioned the subject to me, I asked him whether he considered that any arrangement of the kind had been agreed to, his Excellency replied in the negative, adding, however, that a rectification of the Tunisian frontier in the direction indicated was certainly desired by the French

Government, and that he could not understand why the Italians, whom it did not concern, showed such restless curiosity on the subject.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE.

No. 388.

*Foreign Office to Admiralty.**Foreign Office, December 26, 1887.*

Sir,

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 8th instant and to previous correspondence upon the subject of the Island of Peregil, I am directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to state to you that his Lordship observes that the "Mediterranean Pilot," issued by the Admiralty, speaks so recently as 1883 of this island as belonging to Spain, and I am to request that you will move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to cause Lord Salisbury to be informed of the authority on which the above statement is made, as no corroborative evidence of the fact can be found in the archives of this Office.

Their Lordships will have learned from Sir Clare Ford's despatch No. 106 of the 4th instant, copy of which was inclosed in my letter of the 23rd instant, that the Spanish Government disclaim any right of sovereignty over Peregil.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 389.

*Sir J. Savile to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)*

(No. 302.)

*Rome, December 24, 1887.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 295 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to inclose an extract from "L'Espresso" of this date containing a letter from a diplomatist to the "Correspondence de l'Espresso" on the subject of the supposed rectification of the frontier between Tunis and Tripoli, as indicated in a map published at Paris, which is reported to have been adopted in the maps of the French Etat-Major.

The writer states that the French Ambassador at Constantinople having been asked by the Porte for a friendly explanation of this report, replied that the Geographical Society which had published that map was alone responsible for it, and that there was no map of the Etat-Major in which that supposititious frontier of Tunis was laid down.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) J. SAVILE.

No. 390.

*Señor del Mazo to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)*

(Translation.)

*Spanish Legation, London, December 26, 1887.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency a copy of the Circular addressed to me by the Minister of State on the 1st instant, but which did not reach me in proper time, informing me that the Government of His Majesty the King did, on the date in question, and in accordance with the wishes expressed by the Sultan of Morocco, convocate the Signatory Powers of the Conference of 1880 to a fresh meeting at Madrid, proposing to them, at the same time, that one month should be allowed for the foreign Representatives at Tangier to draw up the Memorandum which it is thought should be prepared.

I have therefore to ask your Excellency to be so good as to inform me, at the earliest date possible, what answer I am to give to the King's Government in reply to the invitation contained in the above-mentioned Circular.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) C. DEL MAZO.

\* Not printed.

Inclosure in No. 390.

*Señor Moret to Señor del Mazo.*

(Translation.)

Sir,

Madrid, December 1, 1887.

I HAVE already informed your Excellency, by means of the Royal Order of the 2nd October last, that on the 17th August last the Sultan of Morocco asked Her Majesty the Queen Regent of Spain, in the circumstances stated in the Sultan's request, copy of which is inclosed, to reassemble the Conference.

His Majesty's Government, desiring to give to the Sultan of Morocco those proofs of esteem and interest to which the Sultan has a right, and to which he could not appeal in vain, and being moreover of opinion that his wishes were entirely justified, now invite the Signatory Powers of the Conference of 1880 to meet again at Madrid during the month of January next, on a day which the Government of His Majesty will name.

The Cabinet of Madrid, and the other Powers, who have been consulted on the matter, are of opinion that it would be well, in order to insure the success of the Conference, that the Representatives at Tangier of the nations invited to take part in it should draw up a preliminary Memorandum as a basis for the work of the meeting, showing the extent to which the right of protection has obtained, and to what abuses it has given rise, what limits might be assigned to it, or what system might take its place. One month appears sufficient to prepare such a Memorandum, and His Majesty's Government now propose such a period in order to be in a position to fix the date of the meeting of the Conference at Madrid.

I have to instruct your Excellency to communicate the above to the Government to which you are accredited, and to inform me of their reply, which I trust will be in favour of the proposals I have now made.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) B. MORET.

*Note.*—The note from the Government of Morocco of the 17th August, which is mentioned above, is not inclosed, because it was read at the Foreign Office on the 29th September last.\*

No. 391.

*Sir J. Seville to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 27.)*

(No. 62.)

(Telegraphic.)

Rome, December 26, 1887, 8.40 a.m.

YOUR Lordship's No. 388, Confidential, of the 9th instant.

Have taken opportunity to explain to Signor Crispi your Lordship's views as to prevention of acquisition of Morocco by its neighbours in terms of last paragraph of Sir W. Kirby Green's No. 144, Confidential, of 24th November.

Signor Crispi entirely agrees with your Lordship's views, but fears they will be found difficult to realize.

No. 392.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 28.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, December 28, 1887, 4.40 p.m.

WE have accepted Spanish invitation to Conference.

Prepare at once, for object explained in my despatches to Sir C. Ford Nos. 169 and 174 of 14th and 22nd ultimo, Report showing the extent to which the right of protection has obtained, and to what abuses it has given rise, what limits might be assigned to it, or what system might take its place.

Are your colleagues similarly instructed?

\* Sir Clare Ford reported, in his despatch No. 141, Confidential, of the 2nd November, 1887, that Señor Moret had given him a copy in Spanish of the letter of the Moorish Government of the 17th August, and Sir Clare Ford stated that he had "carefully compared it with the translation which was forwarded . . . by Sir K. Green. As it tallies in every respect with it, it is needless . . . to transmit another copy."

No. 393.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 114. Ext. 23.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 28, 1887.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Spanish Minister at this Court,\* communicating the Circular addressed to him on the 1st instant by the Spanish Minister of State, in which Señor del Mazo is instructed to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared to take part with the other Signatory Powers to the Convention of 1880 in a further Conference to be assembled at Madrid in the month of January next, to take into consideration the request preferred by the Moorish Government in their note of the 17th August, 1887, for a modification of the Convention of 1880.

I also inclose a copy of the reply which was returned, accepting the proposals of the Spanish Government.†

I have accordingly to request you to prepare at once, for the purpose explained in my despatches to Her Majesty's Minister at Madrid, Nos. 169 and 174 of the 14th and 22nd ultimo respectively, communicated to you in my despatch No. 101, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo, a Report showing the extent to which the right of protection has obtained, and to what abuses it has given rise, what limits might be assigned to it, or what system might be substituted.

I should be glad to know whether your colleagues have received similar instructions.

The substance of the foregoing has this day been communicated to you by telegraph.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 394.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.*

(No. 115.)

Foreign Office, December 28, 1887.

[Transmits copies of Sir Clare Ford's Nos. 172, 174, 176, 177, and 179 of December 11, 13, 15, and 16, 1887; and to ditto, No. 193, dated December 17, 1887: ante, Nos. 365, 366, 367, 372, 375, and 376.]

No. 395.

*Aborigines' Protection Society to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 29.)*

My Lord,

Broadway Chambers, Westminster, December 29, 1887.

ON behalf of the Committee of the Aborigines Protection Society, we beg to forward to your Lordship a Memorandum on the subject of Consular protection in Morocco, which has been drawn up, at the request of the Committee, by M. Ion Perdicaris, of Tangier.

M. Perdicaris has given long and careful attention to this subject. He is thoroughly acquainted with the abuses of the existing protégé system; and is, we believe, fully competent to suggest the lines upon which the necessary reforms should be carried out. We therefore beg to commend his statement to your favourable consideration.

We have, &c.  
(Signed) F. W. CHESSON, Secretary.

\* No. 390.

† See No. 396.

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## Inclosure in No. 895.

## Memorandum.

IN view of the approaching Conference at Madrid, convened at the request of the Sultan of Morocco, to reconsider the stipulations of the Convention of 1880 referring to the extension of Consular protection, I venture to submit the following suggestions, the result of a long experience as a resident in Tangier, where my attention has frequently been called to the abuses arising from the present system of Consular administration:—

1. The independent jurisdiction of the fourteen Consulates of various nationalities established in Tangier leads to frequent conflicts of authority.
2. As each Consulate or Legation is practically irresponsible and subject to no control in the matter of issuing protections, patents of protection may be, and frequently are, accorded to natives not justly entitled to such privileges. Natives have also been frequently recognized as naturalized subjects of the various foreign Powers without due qualification.
3. As such privileges secure the protégé from irregular, and frequently from all, taxation, while they also remove him from the arbitrary jurisdiction of the native authorities, he naturally places a high value upon the patent of any foreign protection, and the Consulates or Legations are thereby exposed to the suspicion of having accepted remuneration for the extension of protection or the recognition of foreign naturalization.
4. This obloquy, whether justly or unjustly incurred, is eminently disadvantageous not only to the honour and good repute of the foreign flags, but it tends also to destroy any confidence in the impartial administration of justice by the Consulates, especially where the relations of protégés with unprotected natives are concerned.
5. Her Majesty's Government, in attempting to relieve the British Consulate and Legation from a portion of the judicial responsibility relating to suits between British subjects or protégés and others, has given the Supreme Court of Gibraltar jurisdiction over Tangier by virtue of certain Orders in Council lately issued. The results of this change of venue have, however, proved anything but satisfactory or advantageous to British interests in Morocco, since any foreign subject or protégé now has it in his power to summon English subjects, residing in Tangier, before the Court at Gibraltar for offences alleged to have been committed in Tangier. English subjects are thereby, and have actually been, exposed to great expense and inconvenience (transport of witnesses to Gibraltar or taking evidence on commission at Tangier), and possibly to the disadvantage of a jury composed of Gibraltarians, of Spanish or other foreign extraction, whose sympathies would naturally lie rather with a Spanish or other foreign plaintiff than with the English defendant. If, on the other hand, the English subject in Tangier wishes to take adverse action, the foreigner falls back upon his own Consulate, where the case is heard almost without expense and by officials but little disposed, perhaps, to support the Englishman's claim, officials who may be, moreover, indirectly interested in the suit.
6. The foreign Consulates allow, it is true, an appeal to their own home Courts, but the great expense attending such an appeal practically debars the parties to the suit from availing themselves of such a recourse.
7. To return to the consideration of the protégé question, it must be remembered that the claim of any foreigner or protégé against an unprotected native merely requires to be executed by two native notaries and certified by the native Judge of the district where the claim is alleged to have been incurred. It may then be submitted by the Legation of the claimant or plaintiff to a Commission appointed *ad hoc*, but the alleged debtor or defendant (who may be quite ignorant of the existence of the claim or charge) has no opportunity of disputing its validity or justice either before the Legation in question or before the Commission itself. The claim is ultimately referred by the Commission to the native Government, which frequently resorts (under the pressure of the Legations) to imprisonment of the most cruel description as a means of collecting the amounts alleged to be due, without any proper form of trial, to the foreign subject or protégé, by the helpless victims of this atrocious and merciless system. As the claims themselves are generally usurious and frequently fraudulent, the amount of injustice and suffering which the system inflicts upon the unprotected native, and for which the present independent and individual jurisdiction of the foreign Consulates is, at least indirectly, responsible, increases in almost exact proportion to the number of protégés in the Empire of Morocco.

The Sultan has consequently refused to continue the negotiations for a new and

more advantageous Treaty of Commerce, which were commenced in 1886, until the present system of the unlimited extension of foreign protection shall be discontinued, asserting that the administration of justice by his own Courts is impeded, while his revenue is diminished by the ever-increasing number of those to whom, under one pretext or another, the Powers represented in Morocco extend the protection of their flags.

According to the Madrid Convention of 1880, every foreign merchant trading in Morocco is entitled to two "samsars," or native agents, in every port-town or large city of the Empire, to whom protection is accorded.

8. Under these conditions, every increase of commercial relations between Morocco and other countries must augment the evils of which the Sultan complains; the more so as some of the foreign Representatives so construe the clauses of the Convention relating to protection as to enable them to appoint "samsars," or protected agents, not only for merchants of their own nationality who are established in the Empire of Morocco, but for any merchants residing abroad who may desire to open an agency in the country.

9. The Trade Regulations at present in force, and the duties and absolute prohibitions imposed upon various imports and exports, are extremely disadvantageous both to foreigner and to native, while, at the same time, the loose wording of those clauses of the Madrid Convention relating to the purchase of land in Morocco by foreigners, together with the obstinate refusal of the Sultan's Government to grant any concessions, exclude foreigners from those fair and legitimate advantages to which the Treaty should have justly entitled them, advantages which would develop the agricultural and mineral resources of the country, open up a large field for the employment of foreign capital, and increase the revenue.

Some essential modification of the Convention of 1880 is, therefore, urgently required, both in the interest of the Sultan and of those Governments represented in Morocco.

10. It is difficult to discover any concession other than the surrender of the system of Consular protection which can be offered to the Sultan as an inducement to abandon his present policy of rigorous exclusion, a policy which hampers trade and effectually debars British capital and enterprise from a country which might, under other conditions, become an important market for foreign manufactures.

11. In the interest of justice and common humanity, the present system of supporting claims of often more than dubious character should be abandoned, and Regulations introduced which would insure the native debtor or defendant a hearing before the Tribunal which establishes the legality of the claim or grants the summons for his apprehension.

12. The most essential measure of general reform, however, is the substitution of a collective or joint authority of the foreign Consulates in the place of the individual and conflicting control at present exercised.

13. The establishment of a united Consular Court is also most urgently required. At least three of the Consuls should preside at each sitting of this Court, with the addition of such Assessors as the Magistrates upon the Bench might deem advisable, with the farther suggestion that in cases where Jewish interests are involved one of the Jewish Rabbis or merchants should be called as an Assessor.

14. The Consul of each Power might be required to serve (judicially) for a period of three months each year, while the Consular Body itself could decide upon the order of rotation of the term of judicial service as well as other points of detail.

15. All foreigners or others subject to the jurisdiction of the Consular Courts should be registered at a central office or bureau after the due examination of their papers of naturalization.

16. Any charge or claim against a native, or against the native Government, should be registered, and three months' notice should be published notifying the time of hearing of the case, in order that the defendant might be enabled to appear either in person or by proxy to show cause why Judgment should not be given against him.

17. The privilege of Consular protection, even if maintained in part or in whole, would, by the above provisions, be shorn of many of its most objectionable features, while the collective supervision of the whole Consular and Diplomatic Body would act as a check upon those members who have hitherto, under cover of an authority free from any local control, too often abused the wide powers intrusted to them.

18. I have not cited the specific cases of fraud, extortion, and cruelty which have come under my personal observation since the character of these abuses have been explained both in official Reports and in the public press.



19. I subjoin, however, an article from the "Westminster Review" of the present month, written by my friend, Captain Charles Rolleston, which gives a faithful description of the evils resulting from the present system of Consular protection, and which draws attention to the necessity of making special provision for properly trained and duly qualified interpreters.

20. I would especially insist upon the appointment of well-educated and well-paid functionaries for these most important posts, who should be selected from localities where the sense of justice and morality is more highly developed than can be the case in a semi-barbarous country like Morocco.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ION PERDICARIS, of Tangier.

1, Spencer Street, Victoria Street, S.W.

No. 395\*.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.*

(No. 200 A.)

Sir,

*Foreign Office, December 29, 1887.*

THE Spanish Minister at this Court called at the Foreign Office to-day.

Señor del Mazo stated that he was informed by his Government that all the Powers had accepted their proposal in relation to the Conference, and had instructed their Representatives at Tangier to draw up separate Reports. The Spanish Government consider that a joint Report might cause delay, as the Representatives might not all agree on some points, and it would be more satisfactory to have the opinions of each of them individually. The Austro-Hungarian Government, Señor del Mazo added, have already instructed their Representative at Madrid to represent them at the Conference.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

SALISBURY.

No. 396.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Señor del Mazo.*

M. le Ministro,

*Foreign Office, December 30, 1887.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, inclosing a copy of the Circular addressed to you on the 1st instant by the Spanish Minister of State, in which you are instructed to ascertain whether Her Majesty's Government are prepared to take part, with the other Signatory Powers to the Convention of 1880, in a further Conference, to be assembled at Madrid in the month of January next, to take into consideration the request preferred by the Moorish Government in their note of the 17th August last for a modification of the Convention of 1880.

The Circular states that the Cabinet of Madrid, and the other Powers who have been consulted on the matter, are of opinion that it would be well, in order to insure the success of the Conference, that the Representatives at Tangier of the nations invited to take part in it should draw up a preliminary Memorandum as a basis for the work of the meeting, showing the extent to which the right of protection has obtained, and to what abuses it has given rise, what limits might be assigned to it, or what system might take its place; and that as one month appears sufficient for the preparation of such a Memorandum, the Government of the King propose that period in order to be in a position to fix the date of the meeting of the Conference at Madrid.

I have the honour to state, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government accept the proposals made to them by the Spanish Government, and have instructed their Representative in Morocco to furnish the Report suggested.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

SALISBURY.

No. 397.

*Foreign Office to War Office.\**

*Foreign Office, December 30, 1887.*

[Transmits copy of Sir Clare Ford's No. 179 of December 16, 1887: ante, No. 376.]

No. 398.

*Consul-General Drummond Hay to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 31.)*

(No. 1. Confidential.)

My Lord,

*Tripoli, December 22, 1887.*

ABOUT 30,000 Tunisians, belonging to the Werghama tribes, the remnant of those who took refuge in this country on the occupation of Tunis by the French, have for the last two years occupied a zone of Tripoli territory extending from the sea-coast 50 miles inland, along and near the Tunisian frontier. The French authorities had frequently urged the Local Government to force these people to recross the frontier, but (as reported by me in my despatch No. 2, Confidential, of the 15th September, 1886), it was not then considered by the Local Government politic to do so. Lately, however, the Vali, in view of the irregularities committed by these tribes, and fearing also, as he has informed me confidentially, that a prolonged occupation of Tripoli territory by Tunisian tribes might serve in the future as a pretext for French pretensions to extend their frontier, resolved to force them to recross it; and his Excellency requested M. Destrées, the French Consul-General, in order to obviate the possibility of any misunderstanding in the matter, to inform the Tunisian authorities of his intention to send a battalion of infantry and some field-guns to reinforce the garrison of Zoarah, under the command of a General of Brigade, for the purpose of carrying out this operation. M. Destrées professed himself well pleased with the Vali's decision.

On the troops reaching Zoarah it was found that the tribes had already recrossed the frontier along the whole line, having evidently been warned, possibly by the French, of the approach and object of the expedition. The Turkish troops thereupon encamped at Zoarah.

On the 17th instant M. Destrées called on the Vali, and, in a great state of excitement, stated that the French authorities in Tunis had been informed that the troops were marching on Djemila, which belonged to Tunis, and that any attempt of this kind would be considered by France as a *casus belli*. The Vali replied that Djemila was on Tripoli territory, and never had belonged to Tunis, but, he added, the report that Turkish troops had advanced on Djemila was altogether unfounded; the expedition had been undertaken with the object already stated by him, and with no other, and the troops had not advanced beyond Zoarah, which is 35 miles from Djemila. His Excellency, however, immediately telegraphed to the General in command of the expedition for information, and communicated to M. Destrées his reply, to the effect that not a soldier had left the encampment at Zoarah. M. Destrées then expressed his satisfaction, and a day or two ago conveyed to his Excellency M. Flourens thanks for his action in the matter.

The incident has, therefore, terminated, and the troops are about to be recalled; but the openly declared claim of France to Djemila, and the threat conveyed at the same time, is a serious matter. Should the French attempt to occupy this or any other portion of Tripoli territory, the Vali has repeatedly assured me he would immediately attack them with all the force at his disposal. With an ill-defined frontier this state of things may at any moment lead to a collision, unless the greatest caution is observed by both Governments.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

F. R. DRUMMOND HAY.

\* Also to Admiralty and Colonies' Office.

No. 399.

*Sir W. K. Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received December 31.)*

(Telegraphic.)

*Tangier, December 30, 1887, 6:15 P.M.*

YOUR telegram of day before yesterday.  
German, Austrian, Swedish, and United States' Representatives have not yet received instructions.

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No. 400.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir W. K. Green.\**

(No. 116.)

*Foreign Office, December 31, 1887.*

[Transmits copies of Señor del Mazo's note of December 26; and to ditto, dated December 30, 1887: *ante*, Nos. 390 and 396.]

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\* Also to Mr. Phipps (No. 221), Sir E. Malet (No. 362), Sir Charles Ford (No. 308), Lord Lytton, (No. 747), and Sir J. Savile (No. 354).